

Concorde wins entry to America for 16-month trial

allowed to land at Washington and New York for a 16-month trial period, it was announced yesterday. The Anglo-French supersonic jet, which is not yet in service, will be flown by Mr. William Coleman, the

Secretary of Transportation, said 16 months would be long enough to allow Concorde's effects to be analysed and a final decision taken. The ruling is already being challenged in the courts, however.

Government decision to be challenged in courts

increase in noise which might cause the two airports to be closed. He said that he had refused to consider Concorde's effects on the commercial prospects of Trans World Airlines and Pan American Airways. Concorde has won a battle, however, not the war. The Secretary's decision, which is immediately binding upon the Federal Aviation Authority, will be challenged in the courts, and the New York-New Jersey Port Authority, which controls Kennedy airport, may refuse it permission to land. Mr. Coleman did not issue a ruling on the port authority's right to do so, but he said that a decision against Concorde would be "extremely unfortunate". Whichever way it decides, the losers will go to court and the issue will therefore be decided by the judicial authorities. Environmental groups are already drafting their petitions for injunctions against Mr. Coleman's decision. Mr. Coleman attached a number of conditions to his decision in favour of Concorde:

1. No flights may land or take off between 10 pm and 7 am local time.
2. British flights must originate at Heathrow and French flights at Roissy-Charles de Gaulle.
3. Any further flights would require a new Environmental Impact Statement.
4. Concorde may not fly supersonically over the United States.
5. The Federal Aviation Authority may impose such additional noise abatement procedures as are safe, technologically feasible, economically justified and necessary to minimize the noise impact, including but not limited to, the thrust cut-back or de-queueing.

He has instructed the FAA to set up monitoring equipment at the two airports to measure noise and pollution attributable to Concorde, and to begin a High Altitude Pollution Programme to produce data to serve as a base for future regulation. He will also ask the President to instruct the Secretary of State to enter into negotiations with Britain and France to an international ozone monitoring programme. He said a decision against Concorde might have been thought discriminatory for two reasons. "First, the United States would be open to the charge that we treated our own aircraft more favourably than those of foreign countries in regulating aircraft noise. Secondly, the British and French might justifiably feel that the United States was discriminating in its attitude towards atmospheric pollution. On the first point, Mr. Coleman observed that noise regulations for subsonic jets were introduced a decade after they had begun to fly commercially, and 80 per cent of aircraft in service today still did not meet the standards. On the second point, the Secretary observed that other pollutants, such as sulphur dioxide, had been treated more leniently than Concorde. With the exception of noise, the environmental consequences would not be substantial. Peter Stafford writes from New York: The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which will have to approve any flights into Kennedy airport, issued a statement saying that it would study Mr. Coleman's decision in detail before coming to its own conclusion. It would also discuss it with the New York City authorities, as well as with the Governors of New York and New Jersey. The port authority said it would "take into consideration all the environmental, economic and social factors involved", as well as Concorde's ability to meet existing airport conditions.

Paris, Feb. 4.—Air France, after hearing the news of the American decision, announced today that it was going to "hold its breath" with plans to make the first Paris-New York flight by Concorde on May 1, an overwhelming success. 1742 Concorde trip, page 4 Photograph, text excerpts and reactions, page 8

British ship fired on by Argentine warship

By Robert Fife
The Almirante Storni, a 2,000-ton Argentine warship, carrying a crew of 30 and with explosives on board, last night fired at the British ship, the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey ship, the RFA Argentinian, which was on a private meeting of Liberal MPs and poets last night looking pale and tense but with the assurance that his colleagues had "reaffirmed their support for his continued leadership".

These were the important words in a brief statement issued by Mr. Cyril Smith, the party's chief whip, at the end of the meeting. He said that throughout the meeting Mr. Thorpe had reassured that there was no truth in the allegations made by Mr. Norman Scott, aged 35, a male model, that in the past he had had a "sexual relationship" with the Liberal leader. The 13 Liberal MPs, six Liberal peers (Lords Evers, Amulree, Wade, Mackie of Benslie, Gladwyn and Wigoder), Mrs. Margaret Winfield, the party president, Mr. Kenneth Vane, the party chairman, saw no reason for reaching a different conclusion from that reached by their three colleagues who investigated the same allegations in 1971, which was then the subject of a Home Office and Scotland Yard investigation. That was a reference to the investigation carried out in 1971 at Mr. Thorpe's request into Mr. Scott's allegations by Mr. Enoch Powell, QC, MP, Lord Evers, leader of the Liberal peers, and Mr. David Steel, MP for Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, then Liberal Chief Whip. They found no truth in the accusations. Mr. Smith said the meeting had before it all the letters that

Liberal MP's reaffirm support for Mr Thorpe as their party leader

By George Clark
Political Correspondent
Mr. Thorpe, leader of the Liberal Party, after a question-and-answer session which lasted an hour and three quarters, came from a private meeting of Liberal MPs and poets last night looking pale and tense but with the assurance that his colleagues had "reaffirmed their support for his continued leadership".

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Mr. Peter Bessell, Liberal MP for Gouda from 1968 to 1970, had written to Mr. Scott. That was a reference to Mr. Bessell's admission that when he was an MP he regularly made payments to Mr. Scott as a matter of "clarity". A statement made by Mr. Bessell about those payments was with Mr. Thorpe's solicitors and the police, Mr. Smith said. "I can assure you," he told journalists after the meeting, "that the press have no letters that we have not got. We have had access to press files today by courtesy of an eminent newspaper." So far as he and the party were concerned "all the loose ends had been tied up", and the matter was closed. It was agreed that references in Mr. Thorpe's speeches to Mr. Thorpe being "persecuted" in the press should not be included in the official statement. This only complaint against the press was an inference read into what he said yesterday "which I emphasized should not be read into it". He continued: "I said that if ever I took the view, or the Parliamentary Liberal Party took the view, that Mr. Thorpe should resign, then we need only ask him: it is wrong to say that he is to resign. He simply resigned what he has said to me on many occasions: 'If you feel that I should resign the leadership, I hope you will tell me.'"

The discussion of recent events involving Mr. Scott and his allegations overshadowed the real purpose of the meeting, which was to consider the scheme for the annual election of the Liberal leader prepared by Mr. Michael Steel. It is due to be continued on page 2, col 2.

BR requests fifth rise in fares in two years

By Maurice Corina
Industrial Editor
The British Railways Board has formally applied to the Price Commission for its fifth general increase in fares in less than two years to avert a £600m deficit in the coming financial year. Details of the scale of the latest increases are being withheld, but most are thought to be between 10 and 17 per cent.

Details of the proposed increases until the price rises are cleared, the Government has considered the likely impact on its counter-inflation policy. Strong protests are already being made behind the scenes by the National Union of Railwaymen, who fear that new fare increases will damage certain services and hinder its campaign against threatened cuts in British Rail's general investment programme. Yesterday Mr. Cresswell, Secretary of State for the Environment, who has had railway policy under close review amid rumours of savage investment cuts, said investment in British Rail would be held in the coming year. He said that the figure would have the results feared by the unions. At the same time, Mr. Gilbert, Minister for Transport, asked in the Commons about commuter fares, said: "There are difficult questions of balancing the equities involved in doing anything to restore the finances of British Rail."

It is beyond question, in certain parts of the country, that a major proportion of the subsidy to keep fares down is going to the better-off section of the community. The Government is now taking place with unions and other interested parties. A White Paper may be issued. Sir Richard Marsh, chairman of British Rail, has stated: "The alternative to price increases is an increasing call on public funds to support the railway." It is expected that British Rail in its financial year ending next month, will report losses of between £400m and £500m, including the various support grants; and without a new round of fare rises, the 1976-77 estimate might be about £600m. British Rail's management feels it has done well in very difficult inflationary conditions, to keep to its loss estimates for the present financial year.



"L'Express" artist gags Marx, Lenin and Stalin as M. Marchais confirms to French Communists that "dictatorship of the proletariat" is no longer the target. Report, page 7.

Steward hurt as protesters halt planning inquiry

The inquiry into the Aire Valley trunk road scheme was abandoned yesterday when demonstrators broke into the council chamber at the town hall, Shipley, west Yorkshire. They were protesting at the inspector's decision to exclude the public from the inquiry after earlier interruptions. A town hall steward was injured during the scuffle. It is planned to resume the hearing today. Last night, Mr. Silkin, Minister for Planning and Local Government, said democracy would be best served by allowing the inspector to continue without hindrance. Page 4

Earlier warning of redundancies

To help workers threatened with redundancy, the Government has yielded to TUC pressure by bringing forward by a month the early-warning provisions of the Employment Protection Act. From March 8, employers will have to consult unions before carrying out plans involving dismissals. If more than 100 workers are involved, consultation must begin at least 90 days ahead. For more than 10 workers the period is 60 days. Page 2

Angolans celebrate

Angolans in Luanda yesterday celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of the unsuccessful attack on the San Paulo prison to free political prisoners. The attack marked the beginning of the armed struggle to end Portuguese rule. Soviet-made tanks led the parade. Page 7

No soliciting

A prostitute who sat revealingly clothed in a window in Southampton's red light district was cleared by Southampton magistrates of soliciting. The bench found that soliciting had not taken place because the woman had not attempted to communicate with, or beckon, prospective clients. Page 4

'Demolish Berlin Wall'

In an interview with The Times, Mr. Roy Mason, the Defence Secretary, calls on the Soviet Union to pull down the Berlin Wall as proof of its belief in détente. He also suggests that the block should reduce its tank armies in central Europe and relax policies on minorities. Page 8

Protest over £5 suits

Men's suits from East Germany, marketed through a Dutch company, are being offered to British retailers at £4.80 each. British companies have complained to the Government about the low-priced imports. It is the Government's duty to ensure this kind of trading is prohibited. They say. Page 19

Winter Olympics open

The 12th Winter Olympic Games were opened by Dr Rudolf Kasper, president of the Austrian Federal Republic, in a carnival atmosphere at Innsbruck yesterday. For the first time two flames were lit, one in the original 1964 bowl. Page 13

Hypothermia: The Government has rejected a request that fuel boards should be directed not to disconnect supplies to old and severely disabled people

Honours even: The Scottish National Party has been delighted by its sweeping win of a seat on Strathclyde Regional Council, but it did not do well in a by-election in the Grampian Region. Page 2

Asians welcome

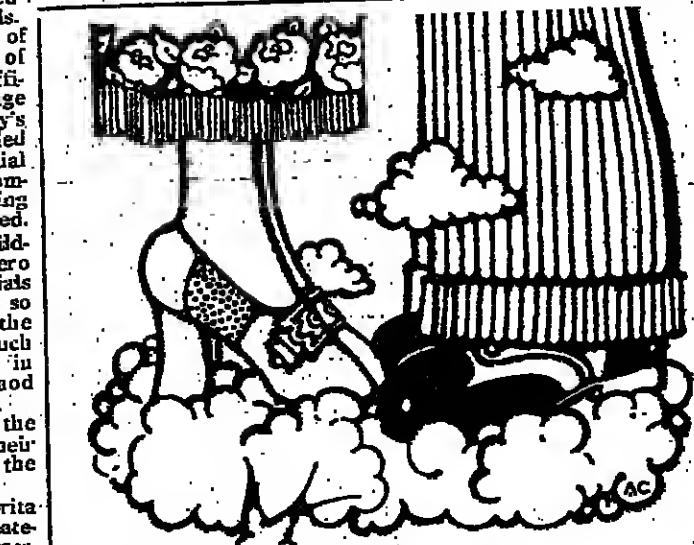
Leaving Asians yesterday welcomed change in the Conservative Party's attitudes towards immigrant communities which have led to the adoption of Mr. Narinder Saroop as prospective parliamentary candidate for Greenwich. Page 4

Earthquake kills 1,000 in Guatemala City

Guatemala City, Feb. 4.—More than 1,000 people were killed in a series of earthquakes that razed a third of this city of one million early today. The fire service said it was not yet possible to estimate how many people were missing. Hospitals could not handle the number of injured, and emergency tents were set up. The city was hit by about 20 earthquakes, measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale. Among the buildings still on fire at the end of the day were Guatemala University's pharmaceutical school and an international food institute. The first tremor came at 3.21 am (0900 GMT), and lasted for 31 seconds. It was followed by a series of others at regular intervals for seven hours. Electricity failed and communications with the outside world were disturbed. General Romeo Lucas, the Defence Minister, took the chair at a meeting of the national emergency committee this morning to coordinate rescue work. The population, fearful of more tremors, took to the streets, which were blocked by fallen buildings, and stayed there all day. Reports said the earthquakes also caused serious damage around the capital, but no deaths were available. The commercial station Radio Fabrega quoted rescue workers as saying they had recovered 250 bodies and were looking for more in destroyed and damaged buildings, including two hotels. The radio said the figure of 5,000 given for the number of injured was an up-to-date, official toll. It added that damage was severe in six of the city's 18 postal zones. These included densely populated residential areas. Some international communications were functioning but switchboards were jammed. Reports of damage to buildings came from the northern region of Honduras, but officials there reported no casualties so far. General Fabrega said the Guatemalan Army was in touch with military authorities in neighbouring republics and emergency aid was expected. One eye witness said the city's poorer sections, with their shacks and shanties, were the worst hit. In Bogotá, Colombia, Señiora Leticia Cheesmen, the Guatemalan Ambassador, told correspondents that one Guatemalan City was completely destroyed. More than 600 houses had collapsed and more than 300 bodies were buried in the rubble.

Six gunmen and girl die in Djibouti kidnap rescue

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Feb. 4.—The 30 children of French servicemen, kidnapped yesterday in Djibouti by four terrorists, were recovered today in a brief but bloody operation. French troops at the frontier post of Loyada, some eight miles south of the town, Ogo girl was killed, and five other children injured, two of them seriously. The four terrorists were all killed, together with two others who had joined them from across the frontier in Somalia. A lieutenant of the Foreign Legion, a social worker who starred with the children all night, and the driver of the bus, were also wounded. The kidnappers, members of the National Liberation Front of the Somali Coast (FLCS), had demanded immediate and unconditional independence for the territory of the Afars and the Issas, of which Djibouti is



If you feel you're 300ft. off the ground you're either in love. Or in the Hilton Roof Restaurant. Or both.

Three hundred feet above Park Lane, the air's rarer, the food's nicer, and the music has an unearthly beat (with two bands fiddling while Romeo burns). All at the Hilton Roof. And, if you should ever tire of the view on the other side of the table, there's 37 miles of flickering London around you to catch your eye. Whatever your love is—good food or something more eternal—celebrate it at the Hilton Roof. If tonight's the night, ring 01 493 8000 and ask for a table on the roof.

diets n bush

soldiers were night in a Pro-ambush on their village of Armagh. The de shortly before a lundmic ex- the leading routine patrol sing carried out two Land Rovers, at serious attack b soldiers in the e Prime Minister it month that ele- Special Air Ser- it vero being sent an upsurge of Irish news, page 2

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HOME NEWS

Scottish nationalists cock-a-hoop at Strathclyde victory

From Ronald Faux
Glasgow

The Scottish National Party gave itself yesterday as having inflicted a crucial defeat on Labour in west central Scotland by its remarkable victory in the Strathclyde regional by-election on Tuesday. That result was considered to be much more important than the party's relatively poor showing yesterday in a Grampian Region by-election. There the Conservatives held the seat with an increased majority.

In Strathclyde, on a poll increased by almost three tenths and in the face of powerful campaigning by the Labour Party, Mr George Leslie, aged 39, held the Calderwood St Leonard's division for the nationalists with a majority increased by almost fivefold, from 477 in 1974 to 2,708. The seat is in East Kilbride, a successful new-town area.

The increase in the majority was bigger than even optimistic SNP supporters had predicted. Although no fewer than three junior ministers and four under-secretaries of state turned out to support the Labour candidate, the result demonstrated the established trend by which voters, when they move to one of the new-town areas from the more deprived parts of west central Scotland, also change their politics.

The result (by party) was: Nationalists, 5,978; Labour, 3,270; Conservatives, 1,466; Communists, 217.

In the Grampian by-election, for the Speyside and Glenlivet division, the result, on a 49.3 per cent poll, was: Conservatives, 1,804; Nationalists, 1,049.

Counties fight devolution

The Association of County Councils yesterday declared determined opposition to the proposals for devolution in Wales and backed a call for the Welsh counties for a referendum to decide the matter.

Lord Forchester (Hampshire CC) succeeded in adding a clause to the resolution to give it "additional punch". It opposed "unnecessary introduction of an additional level of government with its inevitable complications and delay in

The Conservative majority increased from 467 in 1974 to 755. For the Labour Party, the Strathclyde result was a demoralizing blow. Party workers said an excellent effort had been made and the party had shown that it could coordinate a strong campaign. They did not think the result was a judgment from a traditionally Conservative area on the Government's White Paper on devolution. It was merely a sign of the Government's mid-term unpopularity, a reflection of the depressed economy, and a chance for people to protest about the state of Britain.

But the Nationalists, who, if they are eventually to win a mandate for independence (which, according to the polls, most people in Scotland now do not want), must win seats in the Labour heartland around Glasgow, saw matters differently.

Mrs Margo MacDonald, the party's senior vice-chairman, said the result reflected voters' lack of faith that Labour could do anything to alter the state of the economy or industrial prospects. Devolution campaign "still-born": Mr James Sillars, MP for Ayrshire, South, and a member of the breakaway Scottish Labour Party, said the Strathclyde result was "blow sky-high" the plans laid by the Labour Party to turn the Scottish conference at Troon next month into a morale-boosting rally in favour of the Government's devolution White Paper (our Arts correspondent writes). "Labour's current devolution campaign is still-born and the White Paper a dead duck," he said at Cumnock, Strathclyde.

administrative processes, increased costs, and interference with the recently reorganized local government. Sir Mervyn Whittaker, chairman of the association, said: "devolution, to be acceptable, must mean handing down powers from above to bodies closer to the people."

"We will fight to the end a devolution taking powers away from local elected councils and putting them somewhere higher up," he said.

Scottish MPs' position being studied

By Our Political Staff
While government business managers are banging on to their majority despite the decision affecting two Scottish Labour MPs, the House is reviewing the position at a meeting on Monday.

The Government is in danger of losing its majority on Commons committees because party

officials in Scotland have stated that Mr James Sillars (Ayrshire, South) and Mr John Robertson (Paisley), who have joined the recently formed Scottish Labour Party, cannot hold dual membership.

Mr Sillars, who maintained last night that the two MPs were still in receipt of the Government whip and consequently nothing had occurred to affect the majority on com-

Government yields to TUC on job warnings

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The Government yesterday yielded to TUC pressure to bring forward early warning procedures designed to help workers threatened with redundancy. From March 8, employers must consult unions before implementing plans to dismiss workers, Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, announced in a Commons written reply.

The heading of redundancy provisions in the Employment Protection Act is being introduced a month early after an appeal by the TUC last week for urgent action to protect workers with jobs at risk.

If more than 100 workers are involved, consultation must begin at least 90 days in advance. For more than 10 workers the notice period must be 60 days. During that time the unions may ask for the employers to apply for the £10-a-week temporary employment subsidy, available in hard-hit areas.

The new legislation also obliges employers to give the same information to the Department of Employment, and to give the unions reasons for the proposed redundancies, or to specify how many workers may be affected and explain how they are to be chosen.

The aim is to enable unions and the Department of Employment to consider "any necessary steps to avoid or minimize redundancies" and to enable government manpower services to seek ways of redeploying or retraining the workers involved. New measures: The Government's new measures to curb rising unemployment will be placed before Parliament next week, Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, told the National Economic Development Council yesterday (our Business News Staff writes).

The letter said: "No elected representative in Northern Ireland has at the moment any responsibility for law and order. Until that responsibility is in the hands of elected representatives of the people, the basis for any really effective action on law and order will be missing."

On the status of Northern Ireland, it said: "The SDLP's long-term aspiration is well known. We seek a new and

Ministry rejects appeal for directive on disconnexions

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Pressure for an end to disconnexions of fuel supplies to old people mounted yesterday. Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, urged unions not to disconnect customers after the Department of Energy had rejected his plea for a directive to fuel boards, said the General and Municipal Workers' Union announced that it would raise the issue at a meeting with the Electricity Council today.

Mr Ashley asked for an end to disconnexions at the homes of old or severely disabled consumers in a Commons question last month. He urged that, before supplies were cut off, welfare services should thoroughly investigate the circumstances in each case.

But Lord Lovell-Davis, Parlia-

mentary Under-Secretary at the Department of Energy, rejected the suggestion in a letter yesterday. He said a directive would not be helpful or appropriate and that procedures were already in force. The department would continue contacts with the fuel industries, other departments and voluntary agencies to see what further improvements could be made.

Mr Ashley said last night: "The procedures are clearly not working, because disconnexions are taking place. If my suggestion had been accepted the week ago, when I first made it, a lot of suffering could have been avoided. Now that the Government has rejected it, the only hope is that the trade unions will press for it."

The deaths from hypothermia of old people this week were described as a scandal by Mrs

Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, when she answered questions yesterday on the deaths of two old people. "The BBC radio programme will interview it in any circumstances, and it ought not to happen," she said.

Her department had done everything in its power to help. Pensions and heating additions had both risen faster than fuel prices, but extra vigilance was needed; that was the job of the "good neighbour".

More deaths: Mrs Janet McDonald, aged 90, of Preston, Lancashire, was found in a collapsed condition at home and died of hypothermia. An inquest was held. Mr Howard McCaff, the coroner, recorded verdicts of misadventure on Mrs McDonald and on another hypothermia victim, Mr Thomas Chamber-

lain, aged 85, also of Preston. Dr Anthony Ollerenshaw, the pathologist who conducted post-mortem examinations in both cases, said: "The older one gets the more difficult it becomes to maintain body temperature. Old people must have some form of body-heating. It is not enough just to put thick clothing on. Food is essential, but perhaps not as important as some source of heating outside the body."

Mrs Alice James, aged 90, was found dead in her home at Reading, Berkshire, yesterday. The police believe she died of hypothermia. An inquest will be held. Another elderly woman, Mrs Bernadette Tierney, of South Stoke, Oxfordshire, was taken to Battle Hospital, Reading, suffering from hypothermia. Task force formed: Derbyshire

County Council is to unemployed people to be forced to advise how to keep warm. The Mampower, which will pay the £1 will last for 23 weeks. Crews will visit old

The Development of a portable heater to be hundred tenants who have been without heat of a breakdown in the district heating system. The cold weather of schools in Hampshire closed because pupils could not travel, a third only one member of arrived for lessons, as because they were central heating.

SDLP move to woo 'loyalists' fails

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

The continuing struggle to win the middle ground of Protestant opinion in Northern Ireland took an unprecedented turn yesterday with the publication of an open letter to "loyalists" by the mainly Roman Catholic Democratic Unionist and Labour Party.

The letter, published as a full-page advertisement in the Belfast News Letter, the staunchly Protestant daily newspaper, urged loyalists to support the SDLP's proposed new law and order and the future status of Northern Ireland.

But by last night, it had been criticized by most influential loyalist politicians, including Mr John Taylor, the Northern Unionist, who some commentators had seen as a possible wavering on the idea of a voluntary coalition. He said: "The SDLP's move to woo the 'loyalists' is a complete failure."

The idea of taking the £700 advertisement in the News Letter to have arisen after meetings between SDLP leaders and Mr William Craig, the Vanguard Party leader, who advocates a voluntary coalition. The party's spokesman said: "No elected representative in Northern Ireland has at the moment any responsibility for law and order. Until that responsibility is in the hands of elected representatives of the people, the basis for any really effective action on law and order will be missing."

On the status of Northern Ireland, it said: "The SDLP's long-term aspiration is well known. We seek a new and

agreed Ireland. It is dishonest of some loyalist leaders to depict the SDLP as working for the destruction of Northern Ireland."

Plea by brother: The Provisional IRA, the main republican force in Northern Ireland, was criticized in the Irish republic yesterday by Mr Ruan Stagg, his younger brother. He urged that the Provisional IRA to seek him immediately to end his 54-day fast and to withdraw its threat of violent retaliation against the British in the event of his brother's death.

The statement was the latest indication of a widening split in the Stagg family over the hunger strike which has become the subject of intense republican propaganda in the Northern Ireland and the republic.

Mr Stagg, claiming to speak for most of the family, accused the Provisional IRA of using his brother as a pawn. He said: "The responsibility rests squarely with the Provisional leadership and no one else."

Repeated threats of revenge attacks by leaders of Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Provisional IRA, have been condemned by Mr Stagg's married sister, Mrs Veronica Phillips, who lives in Britain, but another brother has been travelling throughout Ireland and abroad campaigning in favour of the Provisional IRA.

Security chiefs in Northern Ireland are convinced that Mr Stagg's death will signal a rapid increase in Provisional IRA violence in Belfast and on the British mainland.

Diary, page 14

New standards fixed for coach safety

By a Staff Reporter

New measures to improve the safety of coaches were announced in the Commons yesterday by Mr Gilbert, Minister for Transport.

Coach tools will be required to withstand a load equivalent to the weight of a fully loaded vehicle up to a maximum of 10 tons. The compulsory installation of escape hatches was under consideration, he said. Mr Gilbert emphasized that coach transport remained the safest form of travel. But the accident at Dibley's Bridge, West Yorkshire, in which 32 people died last summer as a result of brake failure, had led to understandable public concern.

The Department of the Environment was reviewing minimum brake performance standards and considering the possibility of strengthening existing procedures dealing with the testing of vehicles and the licensing of their operators.

Man killed when berserk

Michael Boyd, aged 24, a labourer, of Brander Road, Leeds, said to have killed a man of 71 "who he had gone berserk", was sentenced at Leeds Crown Court yesterday to life imprisonment with a recommendation by Mr Justice Joppe that he should serve a minimum of 15 years.

Christopher Digney, aged 18, a labourer, of Crag Avenue, Huddersfield, Leeds, was jailed for seven years after pleading guilty to manslaughter and robbery. His plea of not guilty to murder was accepted by the Crown.

Heritage group set up

Lady Birk, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, has set up a heritage education group to continue the efforts in conservation education that were made in European Architectural Heritage Year. It was announced yesterday.

Talks at No 10 on Ulster security

By Our Political Staff

The second in the regular series of meetings between the Government and Opposition leaders about security in Northern Ireland was held at 10 Downing Street yesterday. No details of the matters discussed were disclosed.

Mr Wilson was accompanied by senior ministers and security chiefs, and Mrs Thatcher, the Conservative leader, by three of the party's senior spokesmen. Mr Thorpe, the Liberal leader; Mr James Moynihan, the United Unionist; Coalition leader at Westminster; and Mr Gerard Fitt, the Social Democratic and Labour Party MP, also attended.

Mr Moynihan indicated before the meeting that he held much hope of achieving the present levels of army commitment. While the Provisional IRA might have drawn in its "horns" a bit in south Armagh, he was concerned lest there should be a move to use the IRA men segregated at least

three IRA prisoners in England have been held in special maximum security segregation units for their own protection for several months, it was reliably confirmed yesterday (David Leigh writes). One is a man aged 18.

Although the official view is that there is no serious threat to Irish prisoners, Noel Jenkinson, serving life with a 30-year minimum recommendation, has been held in the segregation block at Parkhurst prison, Isle of Wight, since November 7, to protect him from other prisoners. He was convicted in 1972 of the bombing of Alderhot barracks.

Paul Hill, who is serving life imprisonment with a recommendation that he should be held until age or infirmity allow his release, has been segregated at Bristol prison since last October. He was convicted of taking part in the Guildford bombings. Solitary confinement as such is no longer used in English prisons; IRA men segregated at least

allowed in the special security prisons in which men are eventually held. A third prisoner, Michael O'Neill, was released last April of a north London vice unit that plans to Aylesbury prison a year sentence. He is held in segregation in a wood. Scrubs security prison for months, according to prisoners' welfare group. He is classed as Category security, the most dangerous group of prisoners.

Mrs Jacqueline Kay, secretary of the Prisoners' Committee in London, yesterday at the separate hearing of the Prison Committee. The committee is calling for the release of Stagg, the IRA hunger man dangerously ill in field prison, from which he has been released. He is segregated at Bristol prison; he refuses to do prison

Estate agent freed on bail after writ

By Diana Geddes

Mr Christopher Smith, one of the estate agents involved in the ERM Bewbush land deal, was released from custody at Hammersmith police station yesterday on police bail. He had been held there since his arrest on Monday morning for questioning in connection with land deals in 1972 and 1973.

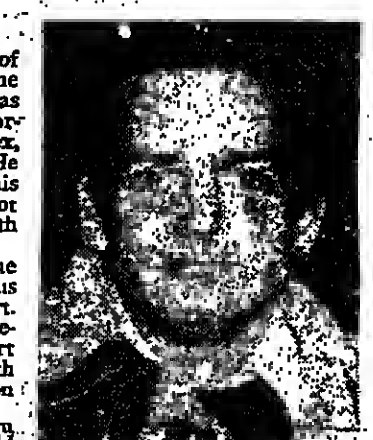
His release followed the granting of a writ of habeas corpus in the High Court. Mr Justice Smith issued a statement shortly after the court hearing saying that Mr Smith would have been released on bail if he had been recognized as £250 and told to return to Hammersmith police station on March 17.

Granting the writ yesterday, Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice who was presiding in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, said that Mr Smith should be produced in court the following morning if he was not released earlier.

The court would "take a certain view", however, if the police could show that the remaining hours to continue questioning Mr Smith.

The court directed that copies of the writ should be served on the Chief Constable of Sussex and on Det Supt Lawrence Pinley, who has been leading an inquiry over the past year into land deals in the Crawley and Horsham area. A file is to be submitted shortly to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The emergency application for the writ was made by Mr Smith's behalf by Mr Donald Farquharson, QC. He told the court that his client had been arrested on Monday morning on



Mr Smith after leaving Hammersmith police station

suspicion of being concerned in an indicable offence.

Mr Smith was being subjected to questioning, which had been going on since 5 pm on Monday, he said. "From the outside it was indicated to the police that Mr Smith would not answer any questions after advice given to him by solicitors."

Mr Smith had not been charged or brought before magistrates and was being unlawfully detained. The period allowed the police to question a person detained before deciding to charge was now past. He added: "If there was a case against this man he should have been charged long before now."

Police bail is not usual but may be granted by a senior officer in cases where someone has been arrested but not charged and where the officer believes that the inquiry into the case cannot be completed forthwith.

Civil service pay and pension inquiry

By Our Political Staff

Pay and pensions in the Service are to be considered the general subcommittee of the Expenditure Committee of the House of Commons.

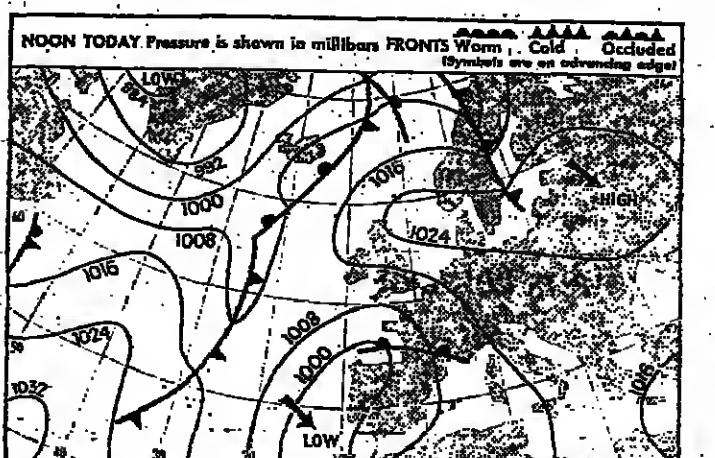
The committee, chaired by Michael Elton, Labour MP, Nottingham, West, has deeper under the skin of half than most Commons' committees. The Civil Service will be the focus of its inquiry.

In a statement last night, English said that the inquiry would primarily consider the efficiency and effectiveness of the Civil Service, as compared with other public bodies, and the management of expenditure control of the Service Department and Treasury. Both the budget and the performance of the service, as compared with other public bodies, will be the focus of the inquiry.

The broad brief of the inquiry, as determined by the committee yesterday, is to investigate developments in non-industrial Civil Service, since 1968, in English and its role in the general government, whether there has been a change in the Civil Service since 1968.

Mr English said all civil service unions, like the public, would be invited to give evidence. The subcommittee is investigating the Civil Service to help them in their investigation.

Weather forecast and recordings



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts: warm, cold, occluded. Symbols are on accompanying pages.

Today Sun rises: 7.34 am. Sun sets: 4.56 pm. Moon rises: 9.6 am. Moon sets: 10.58 pm. First quarter: February 8. Lighting up: 5.26 pm to 7.2 am.

High water: London Bridge, 4.36 am, 7.11 am (23.2ft); 5.2 pm, 7.58 pm (21.2ft). Avonmouth, 10.5 am, 12.5m (41.2ft); 10.13 am, 12.2m (40.1ft). Dover, 1.39 am, 6.5m (21.8ft); 1.59 pm, 6.3m (20.6ft). Hull, 9.3 am, 6.7m (22.0ft); 9.0 pm, 6.3m (22.3ft). Liverpool, 1.0 am, 8.3 m (27.9ft); 2.8 pm, 8.7m (28.6ft).

A ridge of high pressure will move slowly S over Scotland, but an E air stream will persist over much of Britain.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: C, cloud; F, fair; S, rain; S, sun; Z, snow.

Location	C	F	S	Z
Akron	1	1	1	1
Albany	1	1	1	1
Albuquerque	1	1	1	1
Alameda	1	1	1	1
Albany	1	1	1	1
Albuquerque	1	1	1	1
Alameda	1	1	1	1
Albany	1	1	1	1
Albuquerque	1	1	1	1
Alameda	1	1	1	1

Sea passages: S North

Wind E, fresh or strong moderate, locally rough.

Strait of Dover: English

Wind E, fresh or strong moderate, occasionally rough.

Yesterday London: Temp: max, 6 am

min, 3°C (37°F); max, 6 pm

min, -1°C (30°F); max, 10 am

min, 8.3 pm; max, 24 in Hg

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Bath traffic plan backed

From Our Correspondent

Proposals for overcoming Bath's traffic difficulties, including closing Pulteney Bridge to all but buses and emergency services, met with the approval of a steering committee sponsored by the Government yesterday. The group, which is considering traffic in conjunction with the needs of conservation, wants a detailed report, with estimates of costs, ready by its next meeting on March 10.

If the plan seems practicable the committee will recommend that it should be put into effect in September. It would be based on using Upper Bristol Road, Queen Square and George Street, which is part of

the A4 London Road; to remove from the city centre two hundred on-street car parking places; make a new traffic layout at the main junction at Churchill Bridge; and introduce new arrangements for traffic at Cleveland Bridge, on the outskirts of the city centre. The volume of traffic through the city centre would be reduced, and congestion eased, it is thought.

The committee, which is headed by Mr Wilfred Burns, Chief Planner at the Department of the Environment, agrees with Avon County Council that a controversial tunnel and east-west relief road scheme, first proposed 12 years ago, should be dropped on ground of cost.

Conservative candidate 'was threatened with a writ'

Mr Tim Keigwin, a former Conservative parliamentary candidate, said yesterday that Mr Jeremy Thorpe, the Liberal MP, had threatened him with a writ if any mention was made of Mr Norman Scott during the general election campaign of February, 1974.

Speaking at his home at a telephone call he had received from Mr Scott and a later meeting he had with him in the presence of a solicitor.

"I had barely heard of the man and he was up out of the blue," Mr Keigwin said. He was told on the telephone that Mr Scott's life was in considerable danger and that Mr Scott wanted to see him urgently.

"Mr Scott told me: 'It is about Mr Thorpe,' I interrupted

I would not, because for one reason I have given my word to my association officers not to do and secondly that it would be very foolish because no one would want to believe it and it would almost certainly rebound."

Mr Keigwin also spoke of a telephone call he had received from Mr Scott and a later meeting he had with him in the presence of a solicitor.

"I had barely heard of the man and he was up out of the blue," Mr Keigwin said. He was told on the telephone that Mr Scott's life was in considerable danger and that Mr Scott wanted to see him urgently.

"Mr Scott told me: 'It is about Mr Thorpe,' I interrupted

him and said: 'You realize that anything on a personal basis I cannot possibly use.'"

"Mr Scott said that this was not the point and that he wanted to discuss things in order that I should know his story." He wanted Mr Keigwin to take a manuscript from him and keep it in a safe place.

Mr Keigwin and Mr John Palmer, a Conservative MP, met Mr Scott on January 19, 1974. "We listened to his story, which was very lengthy. It went on much further in time than the manuscript he had given me to use," Mr Keigwin said. "He had made it clear that he was of association with many people."

"We also saw a file of letters, which I do not wish to go into.

But there were letters from Mr Bessell [Mr Peter Bessell, former Liberal MP, on that file. What we saw then and heard told a bit of taking in all

Mr Keigwin said his association's officials had asked him for an undertaking that no mention of the file would be made during the election campaign. "I gave that undertaking."

"The original manuscript was still in his possession 'under lock and key', although a copy of it was taken for the constituency association officials. A copy was sent to Conservative Central Office."

Mr Barnes said yesterday: "It is correct that I have called on Mr Keigwin, and his account is substantially correct."

Liberals reaffirm support for Mr Thorpe

Continued from page 1

to come before the Liberal Assembly for approval in September. After about half an hour's discussion, the MPs decided to defer a decision on the nine-page document until the next meeting.

One Liberal MP said after the meeting that doubts and worries had been dispelled by Mr Thorpe's account of events. They had concluded that there were no letters in existence that could cast any suspicion on him.

A few hours before the Liberal MPs met, the Conservative Party had decided to make an official request to Mr Silkin, QC, the Attorney General, to investigate a suggestion that the Conservatives might have been involved in one aspect of developments concerning Mr Norman Scott, aged 35, a male model who recently made allegations,

firmly denied, about the Liberal leader.

Mr Smith said in a television interview on Tuesday night: "I have had somebody in my office in the last few hours who told me that the £2,500 [Mr Scott] has alleged that he was given £2,500 on the day of the general election in 1974 but did not say by whom] was paid by the Tory Central Office. I don't believe it, but I was told it; and there are so many speculations going about, as to by whom the £2,500 was paid, and for what purposes."

Sir Michael Havers, shadow Attorney General, wrote to Mr Silkin: "The allegations involving Mr Scott and Mr Jeremy Thorpe have been no concern of mine until last night when Mr Cyril Smith, during an interview on News at Ten, said that he had been told by somebody in his office that the £2,500

Scott is alleged to have received on February 28, 1974, was paid by Tory Central Office."

Mr Smith had been asked to produce "this person" and the evidence he had given to do so. In view of the far-fetched allegations Sir Michael asked Mr Silkin to initiate through the Director of Public Prosecutions "an immediate inquiry into the source of this alleged payment."

Mr Smith, asked to comment on Sir Michael's letter, said he thought he had "grossly oversteered". He had made it clear that he did not believe the central office was involved.

Mr Grimond, the former Liberal leader, defended Mr Thorpe when he was interviewed in the TV programme First Report yesterday. He said Mr Thorpe had denied the allegations and should be allowed to carry on the role he had discharged successfully, leading the Liberal Party.

Fuller inquiry by police into Exmoor shooting

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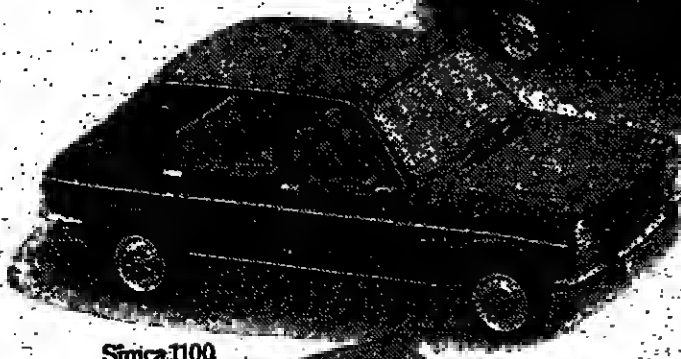
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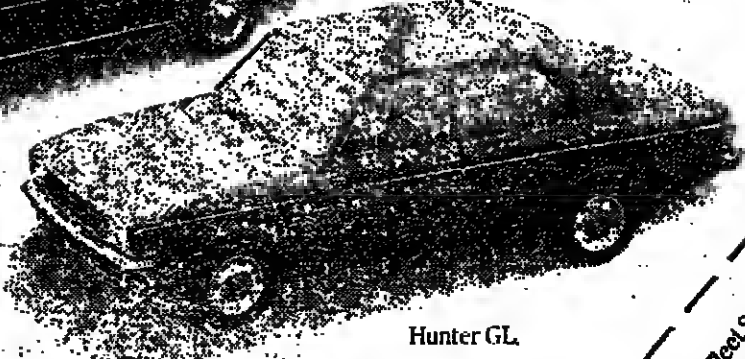
Simca 1100




Avenger Estate



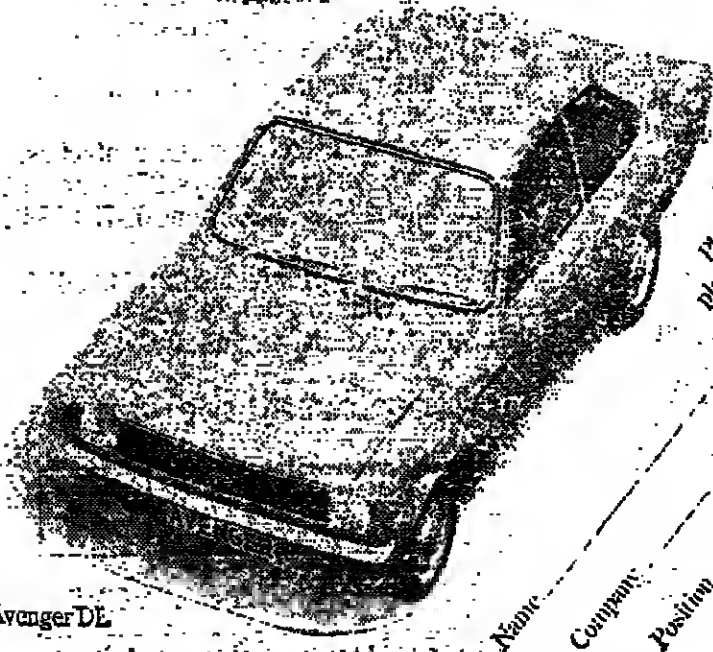
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NEWS

Office disputes 'What?' criticism phone service

For over a month, "Yet only two subscribers were given any rebate on their rental in compensation."

Replying to the criticisms, Mr Stanley said the total number of calls made last year was nearly 16,000 million, whereas the "What?" survey was made on the basis of about 15,000. Post Office records show a steady improvement over the period.

Mr Stanley conceded that there was room for improvement, provided adequate allowances were available for losses from a change from Strowger to electronic equipment.

The Post Office said: "We analysed system performance on eight million calls a year. Which? sampled 16,000 calls on 1 per cent of our exchanges, which must introduce sampling errors."

Of studies show that more than 7 per cent of calls fail to get through because customers misdialled. Almost 90 per cent of calls to an operator were answered within 15 seconds and almost 88 per cent of calls to directory enquiries within 25 seconds.

Roof repairs: The magazine says that only half the members of the association, who are employed professionals to carry out roof repairs were satisfied by the work, in spite of high prices. Some were sometimes charged a quarter of those who reported were very dissatisfied.

Which? suggests that a roofman from or builder to ask between £10 and £25 for replacing a few old tiles and up to £600 for reroofing a small house. Consumers are advised to do it themselves provided they can identify what is wrong and feel safe working on roofs.

Exam examination condemned

Its main contention that there is a waste of resources in the present system because of an ill-defined overlap between GCE and CSE.

The working party envisages three possibilities. One is a common system but different papers for different pupils of ability. That, the Cambridge Review says, would be no great innovation.

Alternatively, it is suggested, the same examination papers could be set with different questions for pupils of differing abilities. That, the review contends, would be full of disadvantages. A very bright child might attempt questions that were too easy and did not do him justice and the third possibility is a single examination for all pupils. All candidates would be required to attempt questions of every degree of difficulty. The review says weaker candidates would get only about 10 per cent in marks and would not find the examination a rewarding experience. Able candidates, while not averse to answering endless easy questions, might wonder why they were required to do so. They might be tempted to pass over the easier questions to find more challenging ones.

The Cambridge Review, 7 Green Street, Cambridge, CB2 3JU, price 40p.

Agger srs

Agger school proposed by chief education officer, to keep rural schools open, to keep rural schools open, to keep rural schools open.

Safer pram rules announced

Safer pram rules announced by Mr Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

The regulations include requirements on stability of prams, the efficiency of brakes, the provision of attachment points for safety harnesses and the adequacy of safety devices on folding prams and pushchairs.

y attracts fewer lyde graduates

The service refers to a recent report by the National Economic Development Office drawing attention to the continuing shortage of qualified engineers.

The number of first-degree graduates in engineering at Strathclyde, which is famous for its engineering courses, remained about the same in 1974 and 1975, when the number of overseas students is discounted. But the number taking up jobs in industry and commerce dropped by a tenth.

The service says graduates were attracted away from industry by higher salaries, particularly in public service, particularly local government, teaching and the Civil Service.

any and its workers survey findings

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relations, health and safety provisions, the quality of its product and consumer services. About 100 companies were invited to cooperate but only Avon agreed.

The company has invested large amounts of time and money in designing and administering wage payment systems for its workers, but often without achieving a desired level of productivity, the report concludes.

Such systems, like those throughout industry, have failed to bring about increases in productivity beyond the short-term deterioration within two or three years, and proved very expensive to replace.

House sales waiting for a rise in prices

By Our Estates Correspondent

About 5 per cent fewer houses were available for sale in England and Wales at the end of last year than on August 31, according to a survey of the housing market compiled by the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers.

The figures appear to confirm suggestions, the society comments, that many people have taken their houses off the market to await a change in the financial climate.

The survey says there were 4.43 per cent fewer houses under £10,000 for sale at the end of the period; in the range from £10,000 to £20,000 there was a reduction of 3.88 per cent; in the number on sale, and in the £20,000 to £30,000 range there was a drop of 7.61 per cent.

There is no evidence, the report says, that prices increased sharply in the last four months of the year. The average increase in the three categories was 1.47 per cent, the highest rise, 2.2 per cent, being in the under-£10,000 range.

Woman murder charge

John Briggs, aged 21, a backlayer, was charged with the murder of Mrs. Grace Quinell, at Claylands Road, South Lambeth, London, on January 26.

End of an era in trade unionism

From Trevor Fishlock, Cardiff

Why, someone asked, was Mr Dai Francis, the South Wales miners' secretary, who retires today, his sixty-fifth birthday, invited into the circle of Welsh barons, the Welsh establishment's equivalent of the Honours List?

"Well," one of the circle's chiefs said, after some thought, "Dai is an odd sort of chap."

He meant that there is more to Mr Francis, a bundle of paradoxes, than meets the eye. One side of the coin usually presented in newspapers, is the tough negotiator, the stubborn communist brought up on 1936 soup kitchens and class struggle, whose rolling Dulet Valley voice expounded the hard line, particularly in the miners' strikes of 1972 and 1974.

That image, however, hides the humanity and humour of the man. The other side is the passionate lover of the Welsh language, of poetry and of songs sung to the harp; who has missed only one national eisteddfod since 1920, who is a leading figure in the miners' eisteddfod, who is a devoted family man.

Mr Francis finds no conflict between his communism, his



Mr Francis: "An odd sort of chap"

Welsh chapel heritage, and his own sort of Christian belief, his Welsh nationalism and his internationalism. He fast went to chapel 40 years ago but knows more hymns than many ministers, and he will quote the Sermon on the Mount, in Welsh, as easily as he quotes modern working-class leaders, and as

readily as he discusses the Morning Star and ways to boost its circulation. "Just because I read Marx, it doesn't mean I threw Christianity out of the window."

His 13 years as secretary has been a time of turmoil in the coal industry and Mr Francis has had more than his share of stormy meetings. With his retirement an era ends in South Wales trade unionism.

He is the fifth generation of a mining family, went into the pits at 14, in 1926, sang in soup kitchens, became a union lodge official at 24, and joined the Communist Party in 1936 when the Spanish Civil War started. He worked underground for 17 years and joined the South Wales miners' executive in 1943.

Of the 1972 miners' strike, he says: "It was our great achievement. Men had failed and had been betrayed in 1926. But in 1972 the miners had their revenge and the grandsons of the men who lost in 1926 saw to it. There was such solidarity that they could never lose. It was a demonstration of working-class power and of the importance of coal. After that, 1974 was a picnic."

Year's jail for man who distributed pornography

Brian Jacobs, aged 30, a fire assessor, was jailed for a year after being convicted by a jury of five women and seven men at Southwark Crown Court, London, yesterday, of possessing obscene material, including 600 indecent films and 3,000 pornographic magazines, for publication for gain. He was ordered to pay costs of nearly £700.

The trial was watched by the Director of Public Prosecutions, the police and organizations campaigning against pornography, such as the New Festival of Light. The outcome might be an important factor in deciding whether to go ahead with future prosecutions.

The material was seized by officers of the obscene publications squad in February last year from Mr Jacobs's first-floor flat in Flashed Road, Plaistow, east London.

Mr Timothy Nash, for the prosecution, said the material was in the "hard porn" class, and was very likely to deprave and corrupt.

At the beginning of the trial the jury sat with court officials in the darkened courtroom and watched a selection of the films. They included scenes of men having intercourse, a woman being kidnapped and subjected to sexual acts by two men, and two women having intercourse with a dog.

Mr Jacobs addressed the jury from the dock. He said he sold to responsible retailers, making certain that sensitive people and minors did not get hold of the material. At the most he made about £150 a month in his dealings.

He called medical experts who said the material was in the public good. They included Dr Christine Pickard and Mr Maurice Yaffe, a psychologist, who both gave evidence in the Linda Lovelace case.

5,000 jobs created in new Scots councils

From Our Correspondent, Kirkcaldy

The number of local government employees in Scotland rose by five thousand on the reorganization of the councils last year. Mr Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland, has told Mr Harry Gourlay, MP for Kirkcaldy, it was disclosed yesterday.

The Scottish Office and the Convention of Scottish local authorities is keeping the numbers under regular review, Mr Ross added.

On May 16, the date of reorganization, there were 185,323 salaried and weekly-paid staff, compared with 180,470 in January 1975, a difference of 4,853 or 2.69 per cent.

Mr Ross said the increase was less than the comparable figure for reorganization in England and Wales, but he had emphasized to authorities the need to restrict manpower and expenditure.

In brief

Head overruled on girls' dress

Stoke-on-Trent education department yesterday overruled a head teacher who twice sent home two girls because they were wearing trousers at school.

Deborah and Jacqueline Smith, twins aged 15, were allowed back to Holden Lane High School after being sent home on Monday and Tuesday. Their mother, Mrs Christine Smith, was determined that they should be allowed to wear trousers in the cold, and asked Mr Reginald Walker, the headmaster.

Student vote on union tied

A vote by the students' union at Manchester University on whether to disaffiliate from the National Union of Students was tied at 547 votes each yesterday.

Disaffiliation was defeated at Keele University on Tuesday by 300 votes to 50; at St David's College, Lampeter, Wales, by 95 votes to 91 yesterday; and overwhelmingly at Portsmouth Polytechnic.

Luton choir ending

The Luton Girls' Choir is to disband after 40 years. Mr Arthur Davies, the founder and director, has been forced to retire at the age of 78 through ill-health, and there is no one to take over.

Island work curb

The Channel island of Alderney has introduced work permits for EEC nationals, excluding United Kingdom citizens, to protect employment among its native inhabitants.

Gas

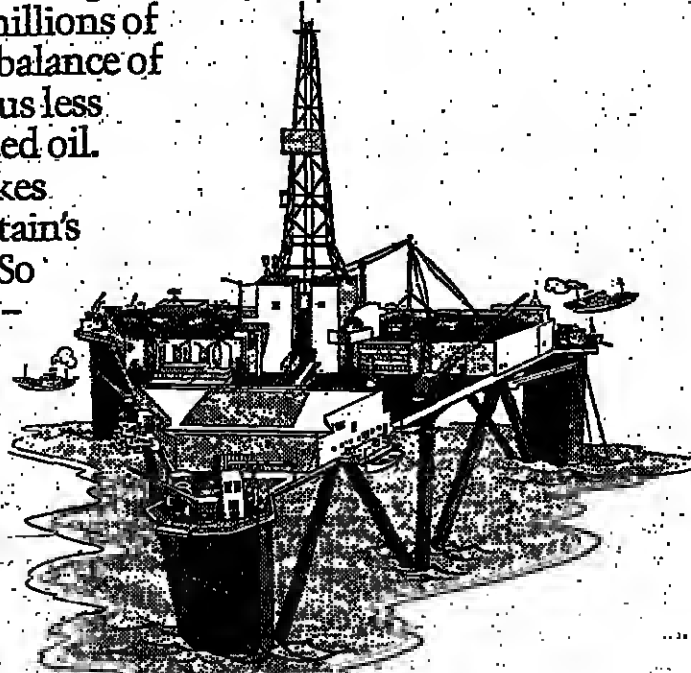
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BRITISH GAS

Building society loans on houses

houses

DURING questions to a jury of State for the County of Suffolk, the following questions were asked by the jury:

MR HOOLEY (Solicitor): I ask—There is no law in Sheffield that buildings are drawing arbitrary orders from the County Council for the purpose of enforcement, as regards it as being in an area. The Secretary of the County Council has reminded the building owners that they are responsible, but not responsible, as well.

MR CROSLAND: There is the type of the which Mr Hooley Building Societies' Association Local Authorities had a constructive January 30 about protocols and the meeting of the County Council of officers in advising the public in terms like this:

MR MICHAEL MOXLEY: I ask—The County Council, in its capacity as a local authority, is not responsible for the building societies.

MR CROSLAND: I ask—There is a number of cases, but it is not better than it was.

and, because there are no laws governing the building societies, these authorities have agreed to let joint working party to continue to look into the matter.

MR OYKES (Harrow)—In the near future does the meeting of the Building Societies Association discuss a reduction in interest rates in view of the rise in interest rates?

MR CROSLAND (Warrington)—I do not think that the building societies on the housing market, in the plans to meet them on an equal subject.

MR HAYN (Dunelm)—(Dunelm Valley, Lab.)—Has the influence upon the societies to make them more of those purchasing the houses of the married life. We on them instead of driving the cross-land companies.

MR CROSLAND—I think we all want to see the building societies more over the society and local authority society lenders than private lenders to maintain low interest at a level which is able to cope with the cost of the money leaving, building society

Road signs warn drivers about child

[illegible]

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44	WS	98556	46	7	WT	98556	49	10	WT	98556
45	WS	98556	47	7	WT	98556	50	10	WT	98556
46	WS	98556	48	7	WT	98556	51	10	WT	98556
47	WS	98556	49	7	WT	98556	52	10	WT	98556
48	WS	98556	50	7	WT	98556				

[illegible]

Angolans in Luanda celebrate 15th anniversary of their first attempt to challenge colonial rule

Later there was a ceremony at one of Luanda's main cemeteries where President Agostinho Neto laid a stone marking the tomb of the unknown warrior.

The parade itself was more a display of civilian enthusiasm than military might. Groups of women in black, red, black, black and yellow costumes, marched along slowly, intoning party songs rhythmically. Platoons of small children (known as pioneers), some of them in T-shirts with the Angolan emblem of military garb, performed drill movements under the instructions of teenage commanders.

By contrast the slow, goose-stepping march of the regular soldiers seemed rather commonplace and the Army band's performance of the new Angolan national anthem was extraneously bad.

The relatively small amount of military equipment on display here no less than the huge quantities of sophisticated Soviet-made armaments that were being unloaded from Russian and Cuban vessels at the port, and a few hundred yards away from where the parade was taking place.

The MPLA's Russian and Cuban military assistants were conspicuous by their absence, the parade was organized exclusively as an Angolan affair. However, groups of Cuban soldiers could be seen mingling with the crowds and President Neto was accompanied by a Cuban bodyguard whose role remained permanently in his pistol belt.

From Our Correspondent
Cape Town, Feb 4

South Africans were surprised to learn today that their defence forces are still holding various points in Angola, penetrating up to 35 miles into that country.

In an interview with the *Washington Post*, Mr P. W. Botha, the Minister of Defence, said that 4,000 to 5,000 South African troops are patrolling "the whole area for which we are responsible".

At first he said, South African troops had "so much success in the area that the

The Russian-backed MPLA and the Cubans, he said, were "armed with what he said were 'superior weapons', notably, the 122mm rocket launcher and the 'Stalin organ'".

Although defence matters and Angola have been extensively debated in the South African Parliament in the past two weeks, this is the first indication South Africans have had that their military commitment in Angola, after withdrawal from the civil war, amounts to anything more than the defence of the Caluque and Luacana hydro-electric installations, just inside the Angola border.

But the *Washington Post* report, now also carried in South

Stockholm, Feb. 4.—Mr Ingmar Bergman, the Swedish film director, is in hospital suffering from a nervous breakdown after being accused of tax evasion.

Mr Bergman, who is 57, was arrested by police last Friday during rehearsal of an August Strindberg drama in Stockholm and later charged with evading payment of 523,000 kronor (about £57,000).

A spokesman for the Karolinska Hospital said: "We can confirm reports that Mr Bergman has 'heco treaco' since yesterday for a nervous condition." Swedish newspapers quoted the director's friends as saying that Mr Bergman's illness "is a direct consequence of the police action last week." If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of two years in prison.—UPI.

Cologne cathedral to have protective spray

Düsseldorf, Feb. 4.—Cologne cathedral, the largest Gothic building in West Germany, is to be sprayed with a chemical to protect it against further environmental damage. The spray will protect the stone work for 20 years.—Reuter.

In December the newly elected union leaders staged a general meeting which, with a vote of 2,500 to 40, called on the Government to return the company to its original owners. The workers threatened a strike unless he returned, and sent delegations to the Government to press their case.

Senhor Manuel Gonçalves himself said he was prepared to return from abroad and resume control on condition that the 17 communist leaders were suspended from the administrative committee.

The trade union leadership supported him and the 17 were suspended.

The Government has now issued a decree ordering the disbanding of the administrative committee "after considering the insistent demands of the workers" for state intervention to be halted. The decree said that any previous ministerial or complex would not be recognized.

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São Paulo, Feb 3.—At least 126 children died from dehydration in this city last month, according to hospital figures published today.

**PACIFIC OCEAN
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 PATRICK WALL**

Recent events now unfolding in the Pacific have created a new urgency to the situation. The danger to the lifelines of the West from the British, the Americans and the Japanese is of a magnitude of view, by four independent experts and defense studies. The threats are lucidly explained. This is a book on a subject of great concern.

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Operation 'Menace'
The Dakar Expedition and the
Dudley North Affair
By Arthur Marder
(Oxford, £7.50.)

(Heinsman, 4.3.0.)

It seemed such a good idea at the time. De Gaulle, newly arrived in England to raise the standard of Free France, could be landed with a handful of men at Dakar, where he would be rapturously received by the population and rally all French West Africa to his side.

If the plan had been carried out on the day it first took shape, Winston Churchill's speech in July 1940 might have come off. But nothing happened that day or that week or that month, and by the time the joint planning committee reluctantly got down to it in August the opportunity was lost. Nevertheless, driven on even further by Churchill's misperceptions (based on misleading intelligence reports) the expedition proceeded to its predestined failure. As Churchill himself admitted, it ended in "miscalculation, compounded by a series of errors."

It began, however, hilariously. De Gaulle, never an inconspicuous figure, presented himself at the Simpson's in Piccadilly to be skirted out with tropical uniform, explaining in a loud voice that he had come to the West End from the French Embassy on the Rue de France to Jermyn Street. Free French officers filled the coats of "à Dekar!" As de Gaulle and his staff left Euston for Liverpool a heavy case burst open on the platform and the papers it contained passed to the astonished hands of the *Aux habitants de Dekar*. Incredibly neither Vichy nor the enemy got wind of the operation. We now know that the decision by the Vichy Government to dispatch three submarines and three "super-submersibles" to Toulon was a disaster. Dekar had nothing to do with the shenanigans in Piccadilly and at Euston.

The British Consul-General at Toulon and our naval attaché at Madrid both sent warnings that French ships would be sent to the Straits of Gibraltar in September 11. Both messages went to London as well as Gibraltar, but in London they hid away and waited their turn in the in-tray. By the time the six French ships had steamed through the Straits of Gibraltar it was too late to intercept them. Nor was it that it would have made any difference. The expedition to

Reviews next week: Michael Ratchiffe on Madame Catherine
by Irene Mahoney; David Williams on James Texe.

All this is brilliantly described in great detail by Arthur Marder, *Operation 'Menace'*. It is full of fun and anecdote. There is no shortage of eye-witnesses and Professor Marder makes the most of his opportunity. The story is well told and the repartee is all at 'White'. And when Bryan Waugh eschewed it for posterity in *Men at Arms*. But for one man it was disastrous—Dudley North, the Admiral at Gibraltar under whose guns the Fleet warships bad gone through the Strait. North was relieved of command a month later and it took him and his friends in the Navy and outside, nearly 17 years to be publicly exonerated of dereliction of duty.

Professor Marder pursues the North case to the limits of historical propriety in an attempt to substantiate the charge that North was used as a scapegoat for the failure of Menace, or that Churchill lay behind it. To be honest, it is a little surprising that the title and the appearance of John Williams's *The Guns of Dover* proves that there is some merit in being able to see the wood for the trees. Mr Williams may be a little over-enthusiastic in his colour of Professor Marder's narrative, but at least he knows a false trail when he sees one—perhaps because he is a zoologist as well as a historian.

The fact is that the Admiralty had lost confidence in North long before the Dakar operation of July 15 to be precise, while the Admiralty (Mr Alexander) reacted strongly to a letter North had written in protest at the treatment of French ships and sailors at Oran. The First Lord, Lord Canning, was the one on whom he could rely to carry out Admiralty orders without question. Churchill endorsed this view. North had evidently lost the root of his authority in the Admiralty and should have been very glad to see you replace him by a more resolute and clearer-sighted officer."

That was 53 days before those French ships got through the Straits. It is no doubt that North was treated grossly, perhaps unjustly. But not because of Dakar; and not by Churchill.

Michael Wolff



Photograph by Fred Shophert

Joseph McCulloch in his St Mary-le-Bow pulpit

Nov 22: How They Killed Kennedy
By Michael Eddowes
(Neville Snodgrass, £1.50)

"They've Killed the President!"

By Robert Sam Anson
(Bantam, 75p)

These two books have persuaded me that the inquiry

into the assassination of President Kennedy should be opened. Not that they have produced any new and conclusive evidence, but their findings are so extraordinary, contradictory, that they will surely add to the vast number of Americans who have already rejected the Warren Commission report.

The "they" in Nov 22 is the Russians. Mr Eddowes sketches what he sees as the international background to the assassination. Khrushchev proclaimed his policy of peaceful co-existence, but in reality was determined to conquer the West in one colossal gamble. Mao Tse-tung was his captive.

First there was the 1961 'c
frostation in Berlin, and th
the 1962 Cuban missile cris
The world was on the nucl
hriak when Mao's herdes

vaded India. The world trembled, but Kennedy stood firm. He faced down the Russians in the Caribbean, and with Macmillan went to the aid of Newr. The dream of the West yielding to Khrushchev, and Mao's men marching west-

According to Mr Eddowes, Oswald did indeed defect to the Soviet Union, but he did not return to assassinate Kennedy. His place was taken by a KGB assassin, which is supposed to explain why the man shot by Jack Ruby was two

Mr Anson has another explanation. Oswald never went to Moscow; he was impersoonated by an American intelligence agency and a teller of tales. "The cables in this theory," he says, "start being Martin." "What sort of woman would marry a stranger, bear his children, and keep silent when suddenly another man gets on the plane and takes his place?" he asks.

What, indeed, but the bemused reader has to plough through 100 more pages before getting to the blockbuster: "The CIA was not only behind Martin to kill Castro, as Senators Church's committee on intelligence believes. They also conspired together to kill Kennedy."

My Affair with the Church

By Joseph McCulloch
(Hindder & Stoughton, £4.95)

The Church at every period of its history needs gaddies, for all too easily the Church militant can become the Church dormant or the Church complacent. Indeed the Holy Spirit in the Church's Lord and Lifegiver, is called by the writer of the Fourth Gospel the *Paraclete*. It is an untranslatable word. "Comforter" will not do because in the modern sense of that word, "Stimulator" would be clearer at least to some of its original nuances. The French might have a word for it—*Animateur*. Would it be too crude to think of the Holy Spirit as a kind of heavenly gaddie, stinging into alertness the slothfulness of His Church? If that be the case, He may be expected to do His work through aggressive workers, divine discontent, men and women who love the Church and

cause it is Christ's Body and
have certain aspects of its con-
temporary manifestation.

Such men have appeared down the ages. Our present century has had its share of them—Dick Sheppard and Charles Raven spring to mind—and we must add to their number Joseph McCulloch. We are the better and the stronger for their presence, for their stings, for their word, and their witness.

This is not a wholly happy book for it comes from a not wholly happy man. But what prophet ever was wholly happy? A prophet is in the nature of the case a man with a burden. And burdens irk and hurt. Joseph McCulloch, for all his complaints about the Church, could never have been happy outside of its service, for if his "affair with the Church" is a love-hate relationship, the love is deep—he has "an indissoluble marriage with religion"—and the hate is a hate of the trappings, not of the essentials.

The book is spiced with humour, and the author can laugh at himself—always a sign of grace. How good that be

should record F. H. Gillingham's criticism of his preaching when Gillingham's daughter (later to be McCulloch's wife) insisted on asking what her father thought of McCulloch's preaching: "He reminds me of nothing so much as a dog behind a hedge trying to find out what's on the other side."

This is a biography, but the story of a life spent not only in parochial ministry, but also in work with the BBC, in writing, in drama, in the rebuilding of a great and historic church (St Mark-le-Bow), and in the initiation of a new church out of a long series of dialogues which have become widely known in the City of London and influential in provoking considerable interest. But besides this, it is a valuable book that it is well worth thinking of an alert and well-stocked mind. We may differ from Joseph McCulloch in some of his views—would disestablishment be such a liberation of the Church as he suggests?—but I think we cannot be other than grateful for the man, the life and the book.

Donald Cantuar

The Emperor Julian, by **Reel Browning** (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 3s.95). Like John Kennin Julian met a violent death—the height of his power—be the myth of a liberal destiny fulfilled. Professor Browning has put the emperor, nearly succeeded in throwing Christianity into a secular frame. This biography only occasionally pedantic—suitable antidote to G. V. Vieta's beguiling blend of mysticism and swash-buckler adventure, presciently pubes in 1957.

Lloyd George, by Peter Nowk (Barrie & Jenkins, £8; Formidable and 150 pages), is a well-acknowledged author of this £72 page work fully daunted by the task has set himself. It is a full biography which makes of the latest published work well as original sources with ever quite taking off. Pr Llanystwydd National School to death as a largely secular minded statesman Mr Nowk charts LG's extraordinary career in admirable detail including those (concern) Frances Stevenson for instance which earlier generations would regard as his public assert that it is 20 years sit the last complete full-length biography of LG appears which is not the same. course, as saying that no boy about him have been misled by the title. Others may have been more revelatory and mo stylish but this work is so competent and complete.

The Victorian Public School

**Studies in the development of
an educational institution**
Edited by Brian Simon and Ian
Bradley

The fees which British public schools are obliged to charge are by now, cripplingly high. Yet parents still press forward eager to cripple themselves.

How to explain this popularity? It rests, I think, chiefly on the quality of changelessness. Education, except for those who can afford the price of a place in the last ditch, has now become the plaything of theorists, social engineers and politicians. Nothing stays the same for long.

Now the young respond to a stable background. There is nothing so sixfold charming as a room joys more than talking about the Old Man's limper-love of the day before yesterday. By now there are no metaphorical Old Men left except in the public schools and the direct grant schools—and these have bad notice served

But of course public school headmasters are not as static as their transient clientele supposes. This collection of 11 essays by different hands seeks to plot their slow adaptation to social and political forces from

the Arnoldian revolution of the 1830s to the new postures required by the twentieth century, introduced by such leading figures as Paton of Manchester Grammar School (1908-24), Sanderson of Oundle (1892-1922), or Frank Fletcher

As by far the most important single influence on the moulding of the Victorian public school was Arnold's, so T. W. Bamford's study of him here dominates the book. Arnold is established as a formidable figure when the comic travesty dressed up by Lytton Strachey. I doubt though whether Bamford takes quite as much as he ought of Arnold's insistence that his staff should be dedicated, able, full-time, and paid a salary commensurate with their talents.

The other pieces—Alicia Perival's on "Some Victorian Headmasters", Norman Vance on that pervasive Victorian word "manliness", Geoffrey Best, J. A. Mangan and Eric Dunning on different aspects of the late-Victorian cult of athleticism and militarism—show interestingly how Arnold's quest for moral excellence was gradually reshaped to meet the needs of Britain's expanding imperial role.

David Williams

David Williams

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Pornography: A question of first principles

children go. What is euphemistically called "soft" pornography is now not infrequently passed among impressionable children. It is disingenuous to pretend that legislation to prohibit the sale to minors is to stop this.

Many people exposed to pornography may suffer great harm. Few may altogether be unaffected by its effect. Some, if only marginally, may be psychopaths.

other for some of the more vulnerable or disturbed people in society. The history of the Roman arena instructs us how the appetite of a people can be created by what is fed to it.

In the Colosseum, the mob (and the upper classes) of

blatantly commercial promotion of Chinese food. My reported, Alan Hamilton, reports from the unlikely location of an American-owned hotel in

the Concorde decision by William Coleman, American Secretary of Transportation. Washington may have become

American-owned hotel
Slough.

~~1115~~

Direct voting in European election

have done better to accept it more generously when the negotiations began last September. The arguments for economic loss and increased unemployment may save Fleetwood, Hull and Grimsby in the face but seen from Iceland they are not so compelling as Iceland's economic balance sheet. So, too, are the arguments of political power: Mr Hallgrímsson has more to lose by his concessions than Mr Wilson has with any he chooses to make.

All this rests in the larger context of the European Community and the very important changes that will follow the success of the adoption of a 200-mile limit. The waters around Britain will gain in importance more than those round Iceland. When the limits to fishing within these waters come to be discussed Iceland will become a petitioner while Britain will have to negotiate with European partners. On Iceland's side the reduction of the American market and the increase in the Russian for her fish must also be balanced with the need of conservation. Iceland's continued membership of Nato is another factor in Mr Hallgrímsson's calculations.

Much better a present settlement between Britain and Iceland even if it is U-boat-free in the cods' home waters, than allowing another fruitless cod war to develop.

sis involving the of Chrysler in this is, for the moment, averted by Tuesday's Advisory Conciliation Service. This outcome is to it will certainly be the Government, once again have decisions about not to continue Chrysler's operations management's mind about the legality of these extra payments, then it cannot have been correct to be rigid and demanding confrontation of the sort we have just seen. Chrysler UK, which will under the current rescue package be making many such moves of employment, production and other activities between their various British centres, must wish to avoid an endless upward ratcheting of wage rates, wherever wage rates are directly compared. It cannot be right, however, to seek to cover such a position with an uncertain appeal to current national wages policy.

So far as the shop stewards are concerned, there can be little doubt that they have successfully used crude industrial muscle to get a group of 57 workers, who are being asked to do virtually the same jobs, though on a new site, more than a rise of £6 a

lay a letter from the the Advancement of Understanding. It ritten as a private appears to have been a letter intended to ie Editor rather than intended for publica- e published it be- think that it is better gument of this kind onducted in the open. right that judgment made by the readers e who have been able . The Times's Middle sition over a consider- l range of issues. no doubt that we have : space to critics of the ionsa resolution equat- with racism than of the resolution. It view a foolish resolu- from the point of view . peace, a bad one. We he weight of argument t the resolution; many ruments used in favour uding particularly that ry long letter from the assador which we did lish, seemed to us th confusing and con-

a Geddess' useful article as (January 28) contained owing passage: "Local is have a duty (though not ory obligation, as the accommodation far homeless including pregnant but not for homeless single

general statement of the law to the provision of local services authorities do in a statutory obligation to for those who are homeless unless they constitute or are single people, though and some pervasiveness to dish the law on this matter.

21 (1) of the National Assistance Act 1948, as amended by the 25 of the Local Authorities (General) Act 1972, with the approval of the Secretary of State, and to such as he may direct shall, take measures for providing . . . temporary accommodation for persons in urgent need thereof, and need arising in circumstances not reasonably have arisen or in such other circumstances as the authority may in particular case determine." (my emphasis) and in the exercise of this conferred on him by s. 21, the Secretary of State directed the authorities of Staffordshire on February 11, 1979, that "the accommodation for persons" covered by a 21-22 certificate "is not a duty to provide temporary

From Mr. Christopher Price, Labour MP for East London, and others.
SIR, On February 2, 1963, the Singapore Government, in cooperation with the British authorities who were thus responsible for internal security, put into effect "Operation Coldstore" under which 107 citizens of Singapore and Malaya were detained for opposing the projected and short-lived "federation" of Malaya. Now, 13 years later, a number of these men—Dr Lim Hock Siew, a leader of the opposition Barisan Sosialis party, Said Zahari, poet and editor, and Ho Piew, a trade unionist, together with Lee Kuan Yew, elected legislative assemblyman, who was arrested a few months later—are still detained without trial.

Over the years there have been widespread demands for their release. As recently as May 13 1975, after his return from the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference, Harold Wilson agreed in the House of Commons that Lee Kuan Yew would lose his prestige if he were to release them. We appeal to the Prime Minister of Singapore, in the name of that humanity and civilized behaviour which should exist among members of the Commonwealth, now to take this opportunity of releasing them from their 13 years of unjust and without trial.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER PRICE,
IVOR GLEIMSTON
ROBIN F. COOK,
House of Commons,
January 28.

From Lord Duncan-Sandys

But, as outlined by your Political Editor (Feb. 20), the proposals of the Royal Commission set up by the Conservative Party to consider the question of direct elections to the European Parliament, seem to be on the right lines.

It is essential that Britain should know that that elections based on universal suffrage are not to be held in other member states of the Community. It would create the worst possible impression if we were to lag behind.

Whenever may be the case for procrastination, the legislative and organizational problems involved rule out its adoption between now and 1978. For the same reason, it is quite impractical to consider anything other than the present system of indirect elections without any change in boundaries.

Your report forecasts that the Scots will be dissatisfied with a representation no greater than that of Luxembourg, which has a population of 1.2 million, compared with Scotland. But that is not a case for giving Scotland a disproportionately large share of the representation of the United Kingdom. It is surely rather an argument for reducing the under-represented allocation of seats to Luxembourg.

There is, however, a major issue to which no reference has been made. The Rayle Committee is right in recognizing the physical impossibility of electing a lower assembly the duty of serving both in the European Parliament and in the House of Commons. But that does not mean to say that there should be no contact between them. So long as the House of Commons sits in the Community continues to rest in the Council of Ministers, who, in turn, derive their authority from their national parliaments, it is of cardinal importance that the members of the European Parliament should have the opportunity to express their views to MPs at Westminster and most important

From Dr Brian A. Richards

Sir, I am conscious of the honour of being featured in a *Times* Leader (January 30). (The first family doctor to be so treated, I am told, within living memory.) There is however something I regard as far more important even than the honour.

On reading the Leader carefully it becomes surprisingly clear that one of your indefatigable candidates must have influenced the Editor. The first was that he (or indeed, she), was writing under the direction of a superior. This human frailty could be understood, though in *The Times* it could certainly not be pardoned. I dismissed that alternative.

Consequently, after scrutiny to depth particularly the shrill and/or hysterical babbling of column three, it is apparent that the writer is already the victim of a sad personal sexual disturbance. The hereafter and the disclosure make unsolicited and valiant protestations of so frantic a nature is well recognized to be symptomatic of a problem that merits not only sympathy and sympathy and an offer of help.

The writer need not at this stage feel undue anxiety. Everyone has a serious problem at least once in a lifetime. Far many it is laag and painful. Aid can nonetheless be found. It would be unethical for me to suggest the best way to help the writer would care to approach me. I will, in complete confidence, refer him to a colleague far assistance.

So to broader issues. One of the things which is most difficult to accept is the lay person's view of photographic material while being loathsome and repulsive to some... as far example were the very things you quoted in your Leader to myself... this loathsome quality in a way reduces the value to others. It is a pity that the shock of the more extreme the material the greater, in certain cases, can be its value.

From the Director General of the
International Atomic Energy
Agency

proct mazines (which are of no proven danger and much proven value), has not been adequately explained to me.

Most people have sexual deviations. These are usually not understood. Because they are not understood they are feared. Because they are feared they are condemned. There is no logic in this condemnation. Neither is there any logic in the present hard and unenforceable law. With suitable restrictions to protect the disinterested public and minors it should be changed with the minimum of delay.

Finally, might I be permitted a small personal comment? I gather that during the Linda Luvance hearing at the Old Bailey *The Independent* produced a representative, taking copious notes. Assuming that the boring proceedings did not lull him to sleep at the crucial moment, he would have heard me say that I was a medical practitioner. He would further have heard that my particular field of study and interest within that accumulation is in sexual problems at GP level. I have practised this for over a decade.

Although I have never claimed to be a "specialist" whatever that is, I do have a vast experience of the field and have been taught thereby. This is a defensible position. I have written widely in the medical press. I have been invited and have lectured in the post-graduate courses at London teaching hospitals. The implication that I am not competent to discuss sexual problems is therefore a resentful man. I am not a resentful man.

If at any time you feel the need to publish the alternative view supporting the case for a change in the obscene publications Act and relaxing the existing law, then your own lay view I will be pleased to help.

Yours sincerely,

From Dr A. D. M. Bryceson and
Mrs Florence Gentleman
Sir, The staff of this NHS hospital

Yours faithfully,
STUART ANDREWS,
Clifton College, Bristol.
February 3.

From Mrs Alan Kippax
Sir, May I, as a practising Christian, take the opportunity to say a few words in reply to your article in the February issue of the "Spectator" on the subject of "The Christian Faith". There are no "good" Christians, as everyone who is a Christian would affirm. It is precisely because we have based up to the fact that we are not good that we are Christians. This is what the Christian faith is all about.

One of the great dangers of the permissive society is the hedonistic attitude which puts sexual self-indulgence before all else. The Christian emphasis is on self-discipline and self-control, which is the only way to true happiness. It is a very different state of temporary pleasure. Consideration for others should govern our every act, and then, hopefully, we can live our lives with the minimum of regrets.

That one can please oneself when one is as long as one is else is true. It is today's most subtle and fallacious argument, acting as an umbrella for undiluted selfishness. No one can do anything at all without affecting, and often hurting someone else.

It is for this reason that the words that God has to say on these matters is relevant, the 28th chapter of the book of Deuteronomy is unambiguous.

Yours faithfully,
JANET KIPPAX,
240 Elmwood Road,
240 Elmwood Lane, Ipswich.
February 3.

From Mrs Susan M. Seragy
Sir, As an Englishwoman married to a foreigner I have special interests in the new Sex Discrimination Act said to have proclaimed equality between the sexes. For recently my two "alien" children were removed from my British passport where they had entered to facilitate their movements to and from the country.
I really would like to know why the children of a British male should automatically gain British citizenship wherever the nationality of the "other parent" and irrespective of their place of birth, whereas the children of a British female are denied this fundamental right.
Could you please help me to help decide this discrimination between the sexes which, I must add, United States females do not suffer?

From Mr J. D. Spinney
Sir, May I suggest how Adam
Fergusson may best shake off the
attentions of the mail order com-
puter? Let him write to inform the
Beast that he has changed his
address, and will it please name far-
ther correspondence; after
which he inserts either the address
from which the unwelcome com-
munications come or, if I can dis-
cover it, that of the company chair-
man. He should have no further
trouble.
Yours gratefully,
J. D. SPINNEY,
The Old Cottage,
Iwerne Minster,
Blandford, Dorset.

From the Secretary-General of the
Law Society

Law Society (see page 3). From Mrs. Leach's letter of February 3 indicates a dis-
tressing state of affairs. Mrs. Leach's letter of February 10 is not, however, entirely accurate
when she says that she wrote to The Law Society a month previous to the letter being
received on January 6 last. Mrs. Leach's letter to you is dated January 17; her letter to The Law Society
was received on January 20, and the letter to you was received on January 23. Mrs. Leach's reply is
awarded.

Mrs. Leach's letter to The Law Society made it clear that her case presented grave difficulties;
said that her solicitors had always been seen to be doing their best for her, and that she was
understanding, but, however, the

From Mr Louis Carus

Mr. Yaure reports that January 30, 1936, the Board of the Midland County Art Association has elected an administrative committee to coordinate the administrative resources by the Arts Council, is both timely and doubly welcome to thousands of patrons of the arts in our sadly undermanned rural regions. The aesthetic and intellectual superiority of our Midland County patronage of the arts is well known by all artists, and for promoters or supporters of the arts, in the provinces.

This is particularly true of the Midlands which are assumed to be the most cultured in the country. The mere £10 return rail surcharge for a trip to the Festival Hall or Covent Garden, of the cultural wonders of the Capital City, just one example of the poverty of regional resources.

It is the fact that no single purpose-built concert hall or opera house has been built in the West Midlands.

From Mr Cyril Myerscough
Sir, A commercial screened an ITV
Sly, a Concorde flying apparently
as though as a paper dart. If it is
making any sound at all, its decibel
discharge is well below the level of
the commentator's dulcet-toned sales
chat. Can it be that the protestors
are making a fuss about nothing?
Or has the Concorde lobby now
managed to nobble the Independent
Broadcasting Authority?
Yours faithfully,
CYRIL MYERSCOUGH,
18 Montpelier Row, Twickenham,
Middlesex

& Co

restricted by s questions

Part-time car protected by hire-purchase

Stevenson v Beverley Bentiuck Ltd

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Roskill and Lord Justice Browne

[Judgments delivered February 21]

A taxi inspector, who in his spare time traded in motor vehicles and who bought a Jaguar car for his own use from a rogue when still within the protection of a hire-purchase agreement was held not to be within the protection given to private purchasers by the Hire-Purchase Act 1964, and that the fraud came to light the hire-purchase company, as the true owners of the car, were entitled to recover the car.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by Mr James Stevenson of Portland Walk, Macclesfield, from Mr Justice Edders at Mansfield, giving judgment for the defendants. Beverley Bentiuck Ltd, a hire-purchase finance company, had purchased a Jaguar car from a rogue for £1,350 and re-sold it to Mr Douglas Draycott, QC, and Mr R. B. Carter for Mr Stevenson; Mr Draycott, QC, and Mr Carter had sold it to Mr Stevenson. Mr Oliver Wilkinson for the finance company.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that Mr Stevenson bought the car from Mr Draycott for £1,350. Mr Roberts for £1,350, and had some work done on it. A couple of months later Beverley Bentiuck Ltd purchased it, at the time that he let it out on hire-purchase to Roberts, who had no right to sell it.

Mr Stevenson said he had a good title to the car. At common law he would not have had a title at all. The true owners, the Hire-Purchase Company, could not since Roberts could not give a better title to be himself bad.

But the Hire-Purchase Act, 1964, gave him a good title, as the true purchaser of a car even though it was on hire-purchase. It protected him so long as he bought the car in good faith and in pursuance of the hire-purchase agreement. So if Mr Stevenson could be regarded as a private purchaser he would have a good title.

But that protection did not apply to a "trade or finance purchaser" defined in section 29(2) of the Act as a person in pursuance of the disposition made in the course of the business which he carries on as a business which carries, wholly or partly—(a) of purchases of goods, or (b) of the purpose of offering or exposing them for sale . . . and "private purchaser" means a purchaser who is not a trade or finance purchaser, does not carry on any such business."

Mr Stevenson was a tool inspector by trade, but the time of the transaction he did carry on, most evenings and at weekends the business of buying and selling cars for the purpose of offering them for sale. In the previous 18 months he had had some 37 transactions in cars, and he carried on the business on his own account and some for his principal. He did therefore prima facie come within the definition of a "trade or finance purchaser."

It was said, however—and the judge had found—that he did not buy the Jaguar in that capacity; he bought it to sell it to a private buyer—for his own use or that of his son. He was selling his own Sunbeam and wanted a Jaguar and a good secondhand one. Could, he be regarded as a private purchaser in the protection of the Act as a private purchaser?

He had in his favour a statement by Professor Good on *Eyre Purchase Law and Practice* (p 622).

Convictions on alt

Regina v Haddock

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal against conviction of a defendant on the ground that the offence charged was alternative to a more severe offence charged, and that the judge's finding, in the indictment, of which the appellant had been convicted.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON said that the appellant, Pamela Jayne Haddock, was charged with the offence of Rape (Recorder: Mr R. G. Rongier, QC) of one count of damaging property with intent to endanger life (Recorder: Mr R. G. Rongier, QC) and one count of damaging property, contrary to sections 1 (2) and 1 (1), respectively, of the Criminal Damage Act, 1971. The second count was struck out of the indictment as they conflicted of the first, since both were based on the same act. Both prosecution and defence counsels submitted

The first stage was to consider whether then would be his chances of getting an equally well-paid job. Many variable factors would be relevant to the nature of his disability; whether he was only capable of one type of work or could become a carpenter, a painter, a bricklayer, and so on. It was noted in one particular area: the general employment situation in his trade or his own or brother's. It was also noted that the fact that he had no discount for the immediate receipt of a lump sum and for the general economy of the State. His Lordship Borchers had approached the question of loss of earning capacity on the right principles. He had not been supported by evidence and it could not be said that he was wrong. The appeal should be dismissed. The damages for pain and suffering and loss of amenity from £2,000 to £3,000. Lord Justice Stirling, Mr. Justice Swainwick, though he seemed to have based his assessment largely on the comparison with Smith had set out the right factors for assessing damages. His Lordship thought that if it was a coal-miner, Lord Justice Nicholson might, lost his present job there was a serious risk that he would have difficulties in getting a comparable job. Lord Justice Stirling said that if it was an equally well-paid job. He had no other skills. There was no doubt that the chances of finding a job in coal-mining might be available to him. He was nearly 50 at the time. He was not fit to be able to do any heavy work, could not walk more than about a mile without pain and (perhaps) a doctor would advise him to have six weeks off work in a year. He was much worse off than Lord Justice Nicholson. Lord Justice Stirling's present job were certainly no less, and his Lordship thought rather more. It was impossible to say that the sum of £2,000 was excessive. His Lordship would allow the appeal only in respect of the sum of £650 the damages on the other heads of damages. Lord Justice Stirling and Lord Justice Nicholson delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: W. E. Thompson; Tiley, Swanger, Sunderland. Mr. L. G. Taylor, Counsel; Rogers & Sons, Mansfield.

trader not HIP Act

that "even a person carrying on business as a dealer or financier qualifies as a private purchaser if he is not carrying on the business in question, he purchases in his private capacity and not in the course of his business".

Mr Justice Bridge did not accept that the words of the Act did not permit it; and his Lordship thought that the judge was right. The words of the section were different from those of the words of the Act, "in the course of his business" as a mercantile agent. The 1964 Act said only that if a person was carrying on the business of a trader or finance purchaser at the time of the disposition he did not have the protection of the Act.

Lord Justice Bridge had done his best on the point at the time of the disposition" and had tried to twist them to mean "in his private capacity" as a "private purchaser" but the section looked at the matter quite broadly, not considering the day or period of the disposition. The judge was wrong.

His Lordship had no doubt that in the words of the Act, the private purchasers Parliament thought they were able to take care of themselves. The court had had said that the words of the Act were information service; and what every trader or motor dealer knew when a car was one brought to him by telephone or otherwise and ask: "Is this vehicle on hire-purchase or not?". It was information service. If a person did not seem to have been aware of that service, for if he had had as many as 37 transactions, he would know that he knew that people did get cars on hire-purchase and then sell them wrongly.

The words of the Act Mr Justice Bridge was carrying on business partly as a trade purchaser and therefore he was not within the protection given to private purchasers. The appeal should be dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE ROSEKILL, concurring, said that ever since hire-purchase was introduced in the first half of the century there had been frauds which had caused loss to innocent purchasers. The court had had to decide on between two innocent parties where the loss should fall. At common law the loss would fall on the innocent party, but as things had progressed—that was the right term—incident had given limited protection to the innocent party, but vehicles or other goods in such circumstances.

LORD JUSTICE GIVE, 1969, was one such instance of giving protection to innocent purchasers; the Hire-purchase Act was another. But when the court was asked to unanimously required the court to look at both the manner and the substance of the transaction, the court acquired possession of goods, the 1964 Act was concerned not with capacity but with status. It might work hardship in a particular case, as it was not intended to do. The court could not stretch the construction of sections 27 and 29 enough to meet a hardship.

LORD JUSTICE BROWNE, also concurring, said that the words "at the time of" were not surplusage but were put in to indicate that the court was to look at the time to which one was to look. If they had been left out there would have been room for argument that the court was to look at various other times—the time of the original hire-purchase agreement, the time of trial or some other date.

Solicitors: Betch & Co., Manchester; Hall, Brydon & Co., Manchester.

alternative counts

that the two counts were alternative, but the judge rejected their view because there was no authority to support it.

Although it was no case which said that it was improper to convict of two offences of a similar nature arising out of the same facts, it was not a case in which it must be right not to convict of both offences in view of the fact that at common law a jury was required to find the defendant guilty of a lesser offence charged, and today statute provided for the conviction of an alternative offence.

The court in respect of the second count had to be allowed because otherwise the two convictions would be inconsistent. The defendant's record, and she would be at greater risk if she was tried before a court which did not know that the two counts were alternative counts.

Stevenson v Beverley Rentinck Ltd
Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Roskill and Lord Justice Browne
[Judgments delivered February 13]
A tool inspector who in his spare time traded in motor vehicles and who bought a Jaguar car for his own use from a rogue when the car was still the subject of a hire-purchase agreement was held not to be within the protection given to private purchasers by the Hire-

[illegible]

"that even a person carrying on business as a dealer or financier qualifies as a private purchaser if, in relation to the transaction in question, he has no right to dispose of capacity and not in the course of his business".

Mr Justice Bridge did not accept that submission. He thought the words "in the course of his business" meant that it was not sufficient; and his Lordship thought that the judge was right. The words of the section were different from those which would have been used "in the course of his business" as a mercantile agent. The 1964 Act said only that if a person was acting as a dealer or a finance or financial purchaser at the time of the disposition he did not have the protection of the Act.

Mr Daycott had done his best on the facts, but he was wrong on the disposition" and had tried to twist them to mean "in his hands as a dealer or finance or financial purchaser but the court looked at the matter quite broadly, not considering the day or period in which the disposition was made."

His Lordship had no doubt that in his view the dealer or finance purchasers Parliament thought they were able to take care of themselves. The court had had regard to the effect of the formation service; and what every trade purchaser or motor dealer would do. It was not fair to him for sale was to telephone them and ask: "Is this vehicle on hire-purchase or not?" It was not fair to say that Mr Stevenson did not seem to have been aware of that service, for if he had had as many as 37 transactions, he would have known that people did get cars on hire-purchase and then sell them without notice.

On the words of the Act Mr Stevenson was carrying on business partly as a trade purchaser and therefore he was not within the provision giving protection to private purchasers. The appeal should be dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE ROSKILL, concurring, said that ever since hire-purchase was founded about the turn of the century there had been a constant stream of cases involving innocent parties, and the courts had had to decide as between two innocent parties where the loss should fall. At common law the true owner was never distressed of his title, but as things had progressed, it was a right thing to do—Parliament had given limited protection to persons who bought vehicles or other goods in such circumstances.

The Factors Act, 1889, was one such substance of giving protection to bona fide purchasers. The Hire-Purchase Act was another. But whereas the Factors Act unquestionably required the court to look at the facts and determine the capacity in which the mercantile agent acquired possession of the goods, the Hire-Purchase Act did not with capacity but with status. Parliament had created a clear presumption that a person in the hire-purchase business was a trader in a particular case, as it did in the present case; but the court could not stretch the construction to meet a hard case.

LORD JUSTICE BROWNE, also concurring, said that the words "in the course of his business" phrase but were put in to indicate in a broad way the point of time at which one was to look. In fact, which one was to look out there would have been room for argument that one might look at the date of the purchase agreement or the original hire-purchase agreement or the time of trial or some other date.

Solicitors for the appellants: Bryan & Co., Manchester. Solicitors for the respondents: Hall, Heydon & Co., Manchester.

Alternative counts

that the two counts were alternative, but the judge rejected their view because there was no authority to support it.

Although there was no case which showed it was improper to convict of two offences of a similar nature arising out of the same act, components of the offence, it was not improper to convict of both offences in view of the fact that at common law a jury was competent to convict of a more serious offence if the lesser offence charged, and today statute provided for the conviction of an alternative offence.

In respect of the second count had to be allowed because otherwise the two convictions would be on the specifications which she would be at greater risk if she was tried before a court which did not know that the two convictions had been based on the same act.

Regina v Haddock
The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal against conviction of a defendant on the ground that the offence charged was alternative to a more severe offence claimed in another count of the indictment, which the appellant had not been convicted of.

LORD JUSTICE LAMON said that the appellant, Pamela Jane Haddock, was convicted at the Crown Court (Recorder: Mr R. G. Roulter, QC) of one count of damaging property, contrary to sections 1 (2) and (3), respectively, of the Criminal Damage Act, 1971. The direction directed the jury to convict of the second count if they were satisfied that the facts both were based on the same act. Both prosecution and defence counsel submitted

that the two counts were alternative, but the judge rejected their view and said there was no authority to support it.

Although there was no case which showed it was improper to convict of two offences of a similar nature arising out of the same act, Commissioner said that it must be not to convict of both offences in view of the fact that at common law a jury was not permitted to convict of the more severe offence instead of a lesser offence charged, and today statute provides for conviction of an alternative offence.

The appeal in respect of the second count had no effect, and the two convictions would be on the appellant's record, and she would be liable for both offences if she was brought before a court which did not know that the two convictions had been based on the same act.

● If you wish to make a lasting love, give this teasing yew. It will be liked or loathed, but not for immoderate passion.

The three-dimensional jigsaw box is cut from a single piece of wood. The puzzle is three tiers deep.

Cot from which there is escape

● For going on holiday, visiting or weekends away from home, a travel cot will be a boon to parents. Infants have reached the crawling stage. A baby who has just how to escape from a carry cot can be put in this high-sided bed. Relax.

The frame is lightweight aluminium, has a patented leg-locking aluminium cover, which is not removable, and white cotton fabric. The mattress is covered in matching cotton. The mattress cover is removable. The cot measures 26in x 24in. Open, it is 42in long by 24in high.

It retails for about £18. Stockists: John Lewis and Peter Jones in Tyrrell & Green of Southampton; Brothers of Sheffield, George & Liverpool, Calders of Wigan, Bainbridge of Newcastle.

● With the cost of many of life's staples rising fast it is pleasing to find a product which is coming down in price. Like pocket electronic calculators, which seem to become cheaper by the month, quartz crystal watches can now be bought for less than £30.

Quartz crystal watches work on an entirely different system from the arrangement of coils, wheels, springs and jewels we know from conventional watchmaking. Each is a sort of micro-computer incorporating a quartz crystal which is vibrated at many thousands of cycles every second by the current from a tiny battery.

Broadly, the quartz watches now being produced fall into two groups—those which convert all this electronic wizardry on to the traditional watch face we know and trust—and digital watches which tell the time in a string of numbers on the twenty-four-hour clock system at the press of a button.

Now whether any ordinary person needs to know the right time to an accuracy of 15 seconds a month or better is questionable. And as most of us glance at our watches to ascertain such matters as whether we have time for a pint before the train leaves, or to see if the soufflé has had its 35 minutes in the oven, I am inclined to favour watches with faces. More moderate citizens may scoff.


The sporty Timex watch in the photograph costs about £29. It has a chrome plated case, aluminium 12 hour ring, and stainless steel back. It displays both date and day in addition to keeping remarkably accurate time. There are two more

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Most people take
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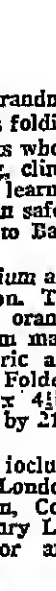
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● One of the re-
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pepper corns pres-
They have a distri-
well with fish, an-
£1.40.

Arthur Hancock
be visited London
be returned to the
looked so grand. I
it", he says. But a
food department of
Stores in Victoria
In the Army, he
then managing di-
& Company to
charcuterie depa-
Wigmore Street sh-
of Wigmore Street
Piccadilly shop in
Street branch closes.

"Great changes
time", he says. "I
ve used to send co-
train—it was all ve
became a shop for
comprehensive na-
beral products was
the back-to-mature
seventies.

Mr Hancock is
about the many f-
served, but he will



designs in the Timex quartz
crystal range.

Stockists include all branches
of the following shops (but do
telephone before making a
special journey): Addesons in
NW England, Yorkshire, Scot-
land and Northern Ireland; J
Hendersons in NE England and
central Scotland; Ramers,
nationally, and Ernest Jones in
London and SE England.

In case of difficulty contact
Timex Corporation, 57 Upper
Road, Ealing, London W3 (tele-
phone 01-567 6462).

The digital "Black Watch"
fun Sinclair Radionics is a
splendid example of what
Design magazine calls "anti-
precious high technology". Its
designers have taken a frugal
and logical look at the prob-
lems and opportunities of the
new watch technology and have
come up with something com-
pletely different.

The case and strap are of
black plastic, and the display
panel is deep purple. The time,
shown in hours and minutes or
seconds and minutes, appears in
red lights when pressure is
applied to an adjoining panel.

The "Black Watch" costs
£24.95 and is widely available.
Stockists include Farman and
Mason, Harrods, Selfridges, and
branches of Gents, Laskys,
Lewis, Lewis, and Lewis, and
Rymans. It is also available by
post direct from the manufac-
turer, Sinclair Radionics, Lon-
don Road, St Ives, Huntingdon,
Cambridgeshire PE17 4HJ (tele-
phone 0480 64046). Cheques or
postal orders should be enclosed
with orders, but no addition to
cover postage is needed.

only clue is the grain
as you cheat and dis-
ally before attempting
again.

about two hours to fit
of tricky pieces into the
cocken who makes the

puzzles.
with be
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Made
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£7.77. M
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VAT. M
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and mo
plus V.

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order o
or four
more.

Puz
and de
send a
Thor
Harrod
cuisine
706957.
telepho
the eff
Beauch
2632)

Mr Hancock

always travels with
good taste

asons that Jackson's of
so frequently in news-
lines is that their shops
ous and often fanciful
the odd or exotic
shelves are put there
general manager of the

pepper corns preserved
ar and an essential in-
steak au poivre were
Mr Hancock had been
any times before find-
is abroad for Jackson's.

are more widely avail-
d. one of Mr Hancock's
ists are poivre rose de
ese are small pink-tinted
served in salt vinegar.
active flavour, would go
d a 3 ounce jar costs

first saw Jackson's
as a schoolboy. When
city to find a job "it
didn't dare walk into
of the Army and Navy
and warlike service
was approached by the
ector of Robert Jackson
take charge of the
tment of the firm's
op. He rose to manage
before taking over the
1962. (The Wignore
nd some years ago.)

have taken place in my
Wheo I joined the firm
untry house orders by
ry traditional. Then we
r swingers," Jackson's
ce of herbs, spices and
1982. (The Wignore
nd some years ago.)

infuriatingly discreet
amous people he has
admit to sending runny

honey
to Buck

New
palm co-
rognosis
jar; and
vinegar
diment
sauced).

Toda
freeze
of the

● Bugs and butterflies do no
least it is not generally thoug
But a ladybird, a blue-wing
beetle daintily painted on
would add sparkle to anyone
The design of this rang
made in Hungary by the C
resemblance to Meissen's
difference apparent to non-
of course from the makers'
of colour and gilt on the E
A single cup and saucer
a similar one by Meissen, E
twelve people cost £250 from
Meissen. Thomas Gnoide &
Street, London W1Y 6EN.
both.

Thomas Good's is one o
skill offering a wedding list o
traditional patterns used wh
she did not find something
Street.

The shop's most f
supplied to royal household
changing circumstances and
Victoria's heavily decorated
the simple pattern chosen b
daughter Mrs Mark Phillips.

Pollyanna

Illustration showing three figures standing near a large book or scroll.

One customer, a real rrier, battle
r puzzle for six weeks before send
back to him for reassembly.

In beach, clam, pour, or paduk;
ood from the Andaman Islands
art-shaped puzzle packed in
y coloured cardboard box, cost
made in English holly, yew, walnut
ry it costs £9.59, and in rosewood
n laurel, £12.63. Prices include
fr Stocken also makes his puzz
y. These are even more perplexing
cause the wood is more expensive
are difficult to cut, cost from £3
AT.

No extra charge, a central ple
top tier can be cut in the shap
initial.

Puzzles are available by post dire
Puzzleplex, Strubs Waiden, Don
South Yorkshire, telephone 0500
Mr Stocken says he can meet
one orders for 250 of the hear
puzzles in time for St Valentine's
week on Saturday. Enclose 25p p
for postage and packing if you
one or two, 15p per puzzle for thr
and, 12p per puzzle for five.

plex make lots of other shape
signs. For a pamphlet giving deta
stamped, self-addressed envelo
e are also two London stockist
Fine Art Shop in the new Lutetia
Hotel at Hyde Park Corner,
one 01-495 3131, which stocks on
any puzzles, and Boadicea, 1
ompy Place, SW3 (telephone 01-53
which carries a selection.

nk
with such

e

from a particular Scottish island
ingham Palace.

additions to Jackson's stock inclu
oil at 85p for a 170 gram jar
de coq at £1.50 for a 50 gram
drom Fanchon de Paris, raspber
£1.30 for a 26cl bottle, and con
a Poesille (a mustardy serran
£1.15 for a 200 gram jar.
y Mr Hancock is in Paris abou
dried green pepper corns are ok
items on his shopping list.

not so well with the cocoa—
t so in this part of the world
fied fly and an unlikely yellow
the underside of the saucer
e's washing up.

ge called *Rothschild Birds* and
um of Herend hears a strong
pattern *Birds*. The greatest
experts in these matters, apart
marks, is a less restrained su
ndies of the Herend pieces.
made by Herend costs £5 and
£4.25. A full dinner service fo
Herend, or about £2,700 from
Company of 19 South Audley
(telephone 01-495 2823) stock

f the dwindling band of shoppe
service. A bride with a taste for
very hard to please indeed i
to her taste to South Audley


ring display, of dinner plates
is all over the x... effect
tastes. To modern eyes Queen
plates look gaudy now beside
y bet great-great-great

THE NEW POLLYANNA COLOUR CATALOGUE

By Post: Day T |
660 Fulham Rd., London SW6 5RY

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

A black and white line drawing of a plush armchair. The chair is covered in a dense, repeating floral or leaf-like pattern. It has a high back and wide armrests. A large, light-colored cushion is placed on the seat, and a smaller, dark-colored rectangular object, possibly a footrest or a small table, is positioned in front of the chair. The chair is shown from a three-quarter perspective.



Piccadilly feature
papers and magaz-
stock such deli-
things. Many of
delicacies on their
by Mr Hancock, &
171 Piccadilly store
Green peppers,
in brine or vineg-
gradient of classi-
one of his find-
asked for them
them on his trav-
Now green pepper-
able in Britain, an-
most recent impor-
Fie! Maurice. The
pepper corns pres-
They have a disti-
well with fish, an-
£1.40.

Arthur Hancock

g grandma, this folding
ents whose
ing, climb-
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can safely
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Chin. The
orange
foam mat-
fabric and
e. Folded,
n x 4 1/2 in.
by 2 1/2 in.
ests include
n, London
n, Copley
Henry Lee
and son
and son

crystal range.

Stockists include all branches of the following shops (but do telephone before making a special journey): Adleshores in NE England; Arkisbire, Scotland; and Northern Ireland; Handersons in NE England and central Scotland; Ramers, nationally, and Ernest Jones in London and SE England.

In case of difficulty contact Times Coporation, 97 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, London W5 (telephone 01-567 6462).

The digital "Black Watch" from Sinclair Radionics is a splendid example of what *Design* magazine calls "anti-precious high technology". Its designers have taken a fresh look at the design of watches, and the lemons and opportunities of the new watch technology and have come up with something completely different.

The case and strap are of black plastic, and the display panel is deep purple. The time, shown in hours and minutes or seconds and minutes, appears in red lights when pressure is applied to an adjoining panel.

The "Black Watch" costs £24.95 and is widely available. Stockists include Forman and Mason, Harrods, Selfridges, and branches of Greens, Laskys, Lawises, Underwoods, and Ryman's. It is also available by post direct from the manufacturer, Sinclair Radionics, London Road, St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PB17 4JH (telephone 0480 646464). Cheques or post orders should be enclosed with orders, but no addition to cover postage is needed.

so frequently in newspapers is that their shops are spacious and often fanciful. The odd or exotic shelves are put there by the general manager of the pepper corns preserved for and an essential in steak au poivre, were Mr. Hancock had been any time before finding his abroad for Jacksons. are more widely available. d. oue of Mr Hancock's rists are poivre rose de are small pink-tinted s. oue salt vinegars. aromatic flavour, were d a 3 ounce jar cases

first saw Jacksons when as a schoolboy. When city to find a job "it didn't dare walk into affert eight years in the of the city and a varnise service was approached by the actor of Robert Jackson take charge of the tment of the firm's oue. He rose to manager of the following order 1962. (The Wigmore ed some years ago.)

have taken place in my Vheo I joined the firm y country house orders by swiners." Jacksons jar: and onion vinegar sauce, diment), Today freeze



♀ Bugs and butterflies do not
 least it is not generally thought
 But a ladybird, a blue-winged
 hee!e dauntly painted on
 would add sparkle to anyone
 The design of this range
 made in Hungary by the
 resemblance to Meissen's
 difference apparent to non-
 of course from the makers'
 of colour and gilt on the last
 A single cup and saucer
 a similar one by Meissen, £1
 twelve people cost £250 from
 Meissen. Thomas Goode &
 Street, London W1Y 6EN,
 both.

Thomas Goode is one o
 snill offering a wedding list
 traditional patterns would b
 she did not find something
 Street.

The shop's most often
 supplied to royal households
 changing circumstances and
 Victoria's heavily decorated
 the simple pattern chosen b
 daughter Mrs Mark Phillips.

Pollyanna



from a particular Scottish island
 Buckingham Palace.

additions to Jacksons' stock include
 oil at 85p for a 170 gram jar
 de coq at £1.50 for a 50 gram
 from Fauchon of Paris, raspberries
 £1.30 for a 36cl bottle, and corn
 a Poseille (a mustardy serran
 £1.15 for a 200 gram jar.

Mr. Hancock is in Paris and
 dried green peppet corns are ok

to mix well with the cocoa—
marks so in this part of the world
and fly and an unlikely yellow
the underside of the saucer
s's washing up.


These called *Rufous-sided Birds* and
the name of Herend means a swan
pattern *Birds*. The greatest
experts in these matters, apart
marks, is a less restrained use
handles of the Herend pieces.

made by Herend costs £5 and
24.25. A full dinner service for
b Herend, or about £2,700 from
Company of 19 South Audley
(telephone 01-499 2823) stock

of the dwindling band of shops
service. A bride with a taste for
very hard to please indeed is
to her taste to South Audley

ing display, of dinner place
all over the room, reflects
tastes. To modern eyes Queen
plates look great, new beside
y but great-great-great grand

Pollyanna



THE NEW POLLYANNA COLOUR CATALOGUE

Select from our collection of over 1000
illustrations in 12 colours and choose the
designs for your next party or event.

See why we're the favourite choice of
party planners and event organisers.

Pollyanna

By Post (Day)
660 Fulham Rd., London SW6 5RY
 Name _____
 Address _____

Stock Exchange Prices

Firm tone held

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 26. Dealings End, Feb 6. Contango Day, Feb 9. Settlement Day, Feb 17
 § Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

BRITISH FUNDS			COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN			LOCAL AUTHORITIES			FOREIGN STOCKS			DOLLAR STOCKS			BANKS AND DISCOUNTS			BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES			INSURANCE			INVESTMENT TRUSTS			OIL			PROPERTY			RUBBER			TEA			MISCELLANEOUS			SHIPPING			MINES			FINANCIAL TRUSTS					
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Fisheries

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

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Euroloan by two groups for re field

among the largest United Kingdom oil fields along with Nym and Bont Forties and Brent.

As well as the \$100m of limited recourse credit being raised by TNS, Thomson North Sea Finance, another wholly owned subsidiary of TNS, has raised a \$100m full recourse loan to meet development costs on Piper or Claymore, which is repayable not later than 1983. This is from a syndicate led by the Royal Bank of Canada.

The \$100m "all that Thomson could raise on a project basis for Claymore but while part of the \$40m additional loan may be devoted to that field, Thomson is confident that its cash flow from Claymore will be adequate to meet "all related debts".

In fact it is estimated that on "all reasonable assumptions" Thomson should be able to generate enough revenue from its North Sea interests to pay off all borrowings in connection with them by the end of 1978.

Since 1974, the Thomson Organisation in which TNS and other Thomson family companies have a shareholding aggregating 80 per cent, has held an option to acquire at least 50 per cent of TNS's North Sea interests.

There is no present intention of exercising this option and TNS would want to see Piper and Claymore clear of all debt obligations before the option were exercised. Meanwhile, the \$40m loan is being taken against the general credit of Thomson's Scottish Associates.

With these two latest loans, Thomson has \$200m available to meet its shares of the capital and interest costs of Piper and Claymore. This includes some allowance for overspend.

Roger Violette, writes: "The Government is rushing an emergency regulation through Parliament to correct a technical problem over the Occidental Group's title to the Bont Forties and the Claymore field.

Originally the Piper and Claymore field blocks were the subject of a single licence covering six offshore blocks. As a result of the Piper financial deal, the block containing Claymore and four others was removed and put into a new licence.

The Department of Energy says it should have advised the new licence through the London Gazette, but because of an oversight this did not happen. In theory, other companies could have bid for the new licence, but as the department is the issuing authority it is unlikely any new application would have been successful.

Banks involved in the Claymore financing are aware of this problem and have been indemnified by the Government against a successful challenge to the ownership of the block.

Necessity to hang together: Financial Editor, page 21
Business Diary, page 21

Peace plan vote today by Chrysler strikers

By R. W. Shakespeare

Chrysler has escaped from the crisis which threatened to bring the collapse of the Government by a settlement which is an almost complete capitulation to its demands by strike leaders at its Linwood car plant in Scotland.

This morning the 4,700 workers who have been on unofficial strike for the past week will be recommended by their shop stewards to accept the peace formula worked out with the company at the London offices of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service late on Tuesday night.

Under these proposals the 57 workers who have been transferred to Linwood from a packing plant that has been closed at Johnston near by will get a wage increase of £1.10 a week pending a new wage deal in June.

This is precisely what the strike has been all about, because the increase will bring the basic rate of these workers in line with the Linwood men in a newly opened packing department.

Chrysler had maintained that it could not pay any more money before the next general wages deal, because all the workers concerned have already had the maximum 66 a week allowed under the Government's pay code.

Because the peace formula was worked out under A.C.A.S. guidance, it is unlikely to fall foul of government policy, but it seems clear that the pay code criteria have been significantly bent to accommodate the increase being offered.

While this has been done by Chrysler, a clause which allows for extra increases when "job content" has been altered, has been altered.

After a full meeting of the Linwood shop stewards yesterday, at which there was a unanimous vote to recommend acceptance, Mr. John Curry, the senior convenor, said: "We feel that it was tragic that we have had to be involved in this dispute, but we welcome the fact that the workers have been proved right."

He said the basis on which the settlement terms had been reached were "a subtle matter."

"Chrysler must be viewing the outcome with mixed feelings," he said. "However, we have secured the first payment of £12m from the Government, which was the whole reason for the rescue operation brought to the brink of collapse at the very moment when it was urgently needing a second injection of money."

The peace formula has made this possible, but the success of militant action at Linwood must leave the American-owned car company—which only reluctantly changed its mind about pulling out of Britain altogether—unsatisfied about the kind of confrontation it may have to face when it comes to carry out all the other changes in the pipeline.

Leading article, page 15
Chrysler franchise switch, page 20

Banks ready to sue Maritime Fruit

From Bank View

Washington, Feb 4

Maritime Fruit Carriers, which has a close relationship with the Tyneside shipbuilding group, has acute cash-flow difficulties and has failed to repay interest and principal on a large share of its outstanding loans, according to the company's new president, Mr. Stewart.

The company is now facing legal action from some of its lending banks, as well as from supply and service creditors, he said today.

Swan Hunter has a 25 per cent interest in Swan Maritime, an MFC subsidiary which has options on a large number of ships with the Tyneside company.

The serious financial difficulties of MFC led to a big restructuring of the company's management last weekend and Mr. Hensel issued a statement today.

Mr. Hensel, who has been president of MFC for only three days, said a preliminary review had indicated that MFC had failed to make payments and was thus in default under the terms of certain loan agreements for \$23.5m (£12m) on total loans of \$88.5m.

It is believed these loans are now being renegotiated, with MFC striving to get agreements extended for some years.

Critical negotiations on these loans are to be held in London with banks and financial institutions by Mr. Hensel during the next few weeks. MFC would not disclose which banks are involved, but some London institutions figure prominently among the creditors.

Mr. Hensel noted that some of the banks and financial institutions which have not been paid on schedule under the loan agreements, have made demands for immediate payment in full and other creditors may make similar demands.

It is uncertain at the moment whether the default could result, under the conditions of the loans, in MFC being forced to repay fully the \$88.5m total in the immediate future.

The seriousness of the company's cash-flow situation is underlined by Mr. Hensel's statement regarding service and supply creditors. He said that according to present information approximately \$15m of payments to these creditors was overdue and these creditors were making up their minds whether to take legal action.

However, he stressed that no actions have yet been instituted by creditors, that "could seriously interfere with the operation of the company."

A company spokesman had no comment to make on the statement made to The Times by MFC executives 10 days ago that one MFC ship is about to be sold and payment for this ship would greatly strengthen the company's immediate financial condition.

Mr. Hensel pointed out that MFC's most recently filed financial report, for the period to last September 30, showed that the company had assets of \$559m and total liabilities of \$489.4m.

It could well be that the asset values have declined since the report was issued, while the liabilities could have increased. MFC officials today noted only that the final 1975 figures have not yet been completed.

Mr. Hensel plans to move the company's headquarters to London from New York.

Hartley Baird deal broke law report says

By Margaret Walters

The acquisition of a public company by Dr. Kurt Wallerstein without payment of the full purchase price is a story "unique in commercial annals" according to the Department of Trade report into Hartley Baird, published yesterday.

The report, the first of two begun in September 1973, deals with the acquisition and ownership of a controlling interest in Hartley Baird in 1962, and alleges "there is prima facie evidence that Dr. Wallerstein committed breaches of civil and company law."

Dr. Wallerstein, the inspector states, "was able to carry out this ingenious scheme because he is a man of considerable personality, intelligence and charm, with great powers of persuasion."

"But," they continued, "at no time did Dr. Wallerstein contemplate paying cash for the HB shares, neither was he, nor his associated concerns, in a position to do so."

In 1962 Dr. Wallerstein, aged 56, who describes himself as a chemical engineer and operates through a series of German companies and Liechtenstein-based trusts, purchased a 50 per cent share of Hartley Baird from Camp Bird, a public company now in liquidation, for about £518,000.

The Stock Exchange was informed that "a consortium, described by the inspectors as 'a ruse to inspire confidence', was the purchaser."

An investment bank called the Rothschild Trust, operating from Liechtenstein, was one of Dr. Wallerstein's main companies. He claimed that the cost of purchasing the Hartley Baird shares from Camp Bird was offset by commissions and other charges due to him from the vendor.

He also, the inspectors allege, devised a circular cheque transaction which resulted in Hartley Baird's paying out considerable sums of money to settle debts due to itself from the Camp Bird group.

The inspectors, Mr. John Hazen, QC, Mr. Thomas Harding, FCA, and Mr. Alistair Troup, say that "for the most part" they do not accept the accounts for the commission agreements produced by Dr. Wallerstein, and conclude that of the £518,000 purchase price, some £460,000 is still owing.

In order to release "part" of the Hartley Baird holding from Fidelity Assurance to whom it had been pledged, Hartley Baird paid out £50,000 as a "mere cloak to disguise the fact that £50,000 belonging to two of their company's subsidiaries was to be applied in paying off part of the Fidelity loan to CB."

With the exception of Sir Harold Lydford who, in the opinion of the inspectors, "clearly had no experience whatsoever of the business world," the report alleges that all the Hartley Baird directors party to the transaction were in breach of section 54 of the Companies Act 1948.

Management shake-up at Town & Commercial

By John Brennan

As Charles Spreckley, industrialist and chairman of Town & Commercial, which Spreckley's chairman, Mr. Jack Walker, talked of earlier this week as "being up for grabs again" since the receivers moved into Spreckley's £150m property group, 35 per cent owned by Spreckley, a management shake-up is being planned.

Spreckley, a shopping, contracting and property company, in which the Slater, Walker group is believed to have up to £20m of outstanding loans, failed to reach agreement with its bankers in talks to raise additional working capital for its building operation. It had asked for its share listing to be suspended on Monday.

The Slater, Walker management has therefore requested the National Westminster Bank to appoint a receiver to the company.

NatWest has appointed Mr. F. S. McWhirter of Peat Marwick Mitchell as receiver "for Spreckley and its principal building operations, and Barclays Bank has appointed Mr. N. Lyle of Thomson Baker as receiver for two of the engineering and building service companies, and equipment owned by the merchant bankers Kleinwort Benson.

He is to become managing director, and the two Spreckley-based members, Mr. Walker and Mr. Ramon Greene, remain on the board, but lose their executive responsibilities.

Mr. Hines confirmed that the company had been discussing the possibility of a form of partial capital reconstruction with the merchant bankers Kleinwort Benson.

But he firmly denied recent market speculation about any reconstruction, which would reduce the entire interests of the holders of T & C's ordinary shares.

Financial Editor, page 21

Japan move to combat speculation on yen rise

By Melvyn Westlake

It was the turn of the Japanese yen to experience heavy speculative buying yesterday as conditions on the European currency markets became more subdued.

In Tokyo the Bank of Japan was reported to have suspended its dollar support operations after being forced to purchase some \$200m (£100m) in an attempt to prevent the yen rising further against the American currency.

Strong buying of the yen continued later on European foreign exchanges after the Japanese market had closed. As a result, the yen advanced to its strongest level for almost four months, closing at 300.25 against the dollar.

Heavy buying of short-term Japanese government securities appeared to have been one of the main contributing factors to the yen's strength. Many Tokyo analysts predict that the yen will continue to advance against the dollar during the next few months in parallel with an expected upturn in the country's exports.

With the West German mark also advancing further in European trading, the Bank of France was again reported to have supported the franc.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Belgian central bank in Brussels confessed to having been surprised at the extent of speculation last week against the weaker currencies within the European joint float, particularly the Belgian franc. Some \$230m had been spent last week propping it up.

Recent rumours of a possible break-up of the joint float were described as "completely unfounded." However, the implications of the recent rise in the Deutsche mark are expected to be discussed today at the regular German federal bank council meeting.

In Milan, there was considerable speculation that the Italian authorities would soon announce a package of monetary measures to protect the lira. Sterling held firm, rising 30 points against the dollar to \$2.0310.



Lord Ryder yesterday. No progress possible without risks.

Ryder plea for faith in Equity Bank

By Maurice Corina

Instructional investors with reservations about the proposed Equity Bank were urged yesterday by Lord Ryder, chairman of the National Enterprise Board, to show more faith and a willingness to take risks.

Lord Ryder's intervention in the City's current debate about the role of a new institution came during a speech to the Newspaper Society about the role of its own state investment and holding corporation. He said one symptom of Britain's present difficulties had been the inability of traditional market institutions to meet investment needs at a price which investors could afford to pay.

After praising Finance For Industry, Lord Ryder said: "I very much hope that Equity Bank will eventually get off the ground."

"Commitment to the idea does involve an element of faith, and many institutions feel that their first duty lies in a more cautious approach. Nevertheless, no progress is possible without some willingness to take risks."

Narodny brake on group

Moscow Narodny Bank said in Singapore yesterday that Mosbert Holdings, a Hongkong based financial conglomerate, had agreed to go into voluntary liquidation after the bank had stated that it would not grant further banking assistance.

Mr. P. Teo, Narodny's Singapore manager, said the bank would take legal action to recover outstanding loans of around \$40m (£20m) to Mosbert and its associates.

There was no confirmation from Mosbert, which is headed by Mr. Amos Dawes, although Narodny claims that the decision to liquidate came after discussion between Mosbert and the bank, the chief creditor.

Narodny's decision to withdraw banking assistance was conveyed in letters to the Singapore Stock Exchange and to Mosbert's solicitors. Mr. Teo said that an investigation into Mosbert by the bank's auditors, Peat Marwick Mitchell, had revealed "adverse factors" not known when the bank agreed to advance further facilities a month ago.

The position of Asia Land, which holds a 25 per cent stake in Mosbert, is uncertain.

Dealers seek minimum price for petrol

By Derek Harris

The Petroleum Retailers' Association, whose independent operator members have been hit by the petrol price-cutting war, yesterday put its case for a statutory minimum price for petrol to Mr. Alan Williams, Minister of State at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection.

The PRA is particularly alarmed at price-cutting by hypermarkets and supermarkets in the north of England and the Midlands, and they were joined by the Motor Agents' Association at the meeting in drawing attention to the disruptive effects on the trade of the price wars.

But the MAA did not support the PRA's demand for establishing minimum prices, according to Mr. Geoffrey Atkinson, the PRA general secretary.

He said after the meeting that his association would now ask for a private meeting with the minister.

The PRA may not find it easy to persuade the Department of Prices to put its weight behind the idea of a statutory minimum price, necessary if the Department of Energy were to make the final decision to establish one.

Mrs. Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, who has already made it clear that in general she welcomed commercial competition as a means of keeping prices down, would need convincing evidence that the lack of a minimum price was to the disadvantage of the consumer.

PRA has welcomed the recent reference of the wholesale supply of petrol to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The commission will particularly look at the extent to which exclusive retail outlets are being secured by the major oil companies.

But the PRA claim that unless action is taken immediately to establish a minimum petrol price the commission's investigation, which there is a two-year time limit, might turn out to be a waste of taxpayers' money.

It has become increasingly worried at the number of petrol stations, which are run by tenants, which are taken over by the big oil companies who then put in managers.

French pact on short-time working

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 4

After only two sessions of negotiation, the Employers' Federation and all five national trade union organizations yesterday signed an agreement to compensate workers placed on short time.

The agreement will grant the 400,000 workers now in this position 50 per cent of the loss of their gross wage during the first 40 hours of short-time working in France or equivalent in other countries. The minimum hourly compensation will also be increased from 7 to 7.70 francs, rising to 7.90 francs on July 1.

The unions are not altogether satisfied with the agreement. They would have liked it to cover all hours lost through short time, and not just those under 40 hours—the average week worked in France at present is 42 hours—and a minimum compensation equivalent to the national minimum hourly wage, which is 7.89 francs since January 1.

Fisheries £2m loss

landings which cut trawling returns by £2m after contributing £5.4m to the £6.2m first-half profit reverse.

In line with EEC policy, this subsidy was phased out at the end of last year. The company is hoping to be in profit in the current financial year, but the extent of the recovery hinges on the outcome of the present dispute with Iceland.

Shares in Associated Fisheries, in which a 34.8 per cent interest is held by commodity trading group Eastern Produce, closed unchanged at 27p.

Financial Editor, page 21

How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
As Fort Cement 2p to 184p	Applycard 3p to 48p
Barracuda 3p to 50p	Aust & NZ 3p to 420p
Beecham Grp 2p to 357p	Barracuda 3p to 344p
Brit Am Tob 5p to 375p	Beckers Mines 10p to 180p
British Land 5p to 255p	Blk of NSW 10p to 600p
EMI 7p to 311p	Glass & Metal 41p to 611p
GKN 7p to 311p	Harmony 20p to 450p
Imp Chem Ind 6p to 386p	Prior, E. 3p to 50p
Peto Wallend 20p to 27p	Rank Ord 7p to 170p
Shell 4p to 392p	Seary 10p to 210p
Unilever 10p to 480p	Town & Com 7p to 25p
Union Discount 7p to 36p	Taylor Falls 4p to 54p
Vibroplant 41p to 122p	Western Areas 20p to 255p
	Wellcom 5p to 310p

The Times index: 170.95 + 1.65
The FT index: 414.4 + 4.9

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	1.62	1.61
Austria Sch	35.25	35.25
Belgium Fr	83.75	84.75
Canada \$	1.07	1.07
Denmark Kr	12.50	12.40
Finland Mk	8.80	7.75
France Fr	6.55	6.55
Germany Dm	5.35	5.15
Greece Dr	80.00	75.00
Hongkong \$	10.40	10.60
Italy Lira	1775.00	1710.00
Netherlands Gld	6.40	6.30
Norway Kr	11.50	11.15
Portugal Esc	65.00	60.00
S Africa Rd	2.90	2.80
Spain Pes	125.00	119.50
Sweden Kr	9.05	8.75
Switzerland Fr	5.35	5.15
US \$	2.07	2.02
Yugoslavia Dnr	40.00	37.00

Equities advanced strongly. Gilt-edged securities saw prices fluctuate widely. Sterling rose 30 pts to \$2.0310. The "effective devaluation" rate was 30.1 per cent.

Gold fell \$1.50 an ounce to \$129.75. SDRs were 1.1707 on Wednesday while SDR-E was 6.5762.

Commodities: Reuters' index was at 1212.9 (previous 1210.4).

Reports, pages 22 and 23

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20 Chrysler dealers seeking switch to VW/Audi franchise

By Edward Townsend

Twenty "high class" Chrysler car dealers are among the 70 applicants being considered by Volkswagen GB as VW/Audi franchise holders. The United Kingdom distributor for the German car company is planning to expand its 350-strong dealer network to about 400 this year. A spokesman said yesterday that nine new dealers had already been appointed, of which three were former Chrysler dealers. It was stressed that the 20 Chrysler dealers now being considered were all "good class prospects". When speculation about the future of Chrysler UK was at its most intense, Volkswagen GB had inquiries from 40 to 50 dealers about switching their allegiance. Many of these, said the spokesman, were just "nipples". VW/Audi was the third largest importer in Britain last year with a market share of 4.03 per cent, just behind Renault's 4.7 per cent. During the year sales of VW and Audi cars rose by more than 9,000 on the previous year to a total of 48,197. Meanwhile the deal under which the Chrysler Corporation of America is to buy up to 300,000 Volkswagen engines and

120,000 axles for a new American-built small car has come under attack from a British union leader. Mr Ray Edwards, assistant general secretary of the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff, described the deal as "the final confirmation of the economic lunacy of Chrysler management in Detroit." He told the union's automotive industry committee in London that the loss of jobs at Chrysler UK and in Detroit meant that as much as possible of the production for the new car should be kept within Chrysler plants. "This latest development clearly shows that as an employer Chrysler is bereft of responsibility. Some of the work now given to Volkswagen could have been utilized to maintain jobs in the British plants, particularly Coventry, where first class engine building facilities already exist." Despite British Leyland's decision to withdraw the Marina from the American market, the company managed to maintain its United States sales level last month thanks to a considerable boost in sports car sales. Total BS sales in January were 3,341.

MPs to see Midland plants

Public hearings by the committee of MPs investigating the government-backed Chrysler rescue will move from the House of Commons next week to the company's Midland car plants.

The MPs, who form the trade and industry sub-committee of the Commons Expenditure Committee, are planning to spend two days touring the Ryton car assembly plant just outside Coventry.

They will also visit the Stoke engine and transmission factory in the city and the Whitley technical centre nearby, which also houses the Chrysler UK headquarters.

Chrysler has agreed to the

committee's taking evidence inside the factories from plant management and shop stewards. Yesterday the committee went into private session to hear evidence from the Industrial Development Advisory Board, which considered that the final scheme for saving Chrysler UK did not offer prospects of viability, and the Department of Industry's Industrial Development Unit. The IDAU, which felt that the serious social, industrial and balance of payments considerations offset the lack of commercial viability, decided that state aid was warranted on condition that there should be a greater capital contribution from the Chrysler Corporation.

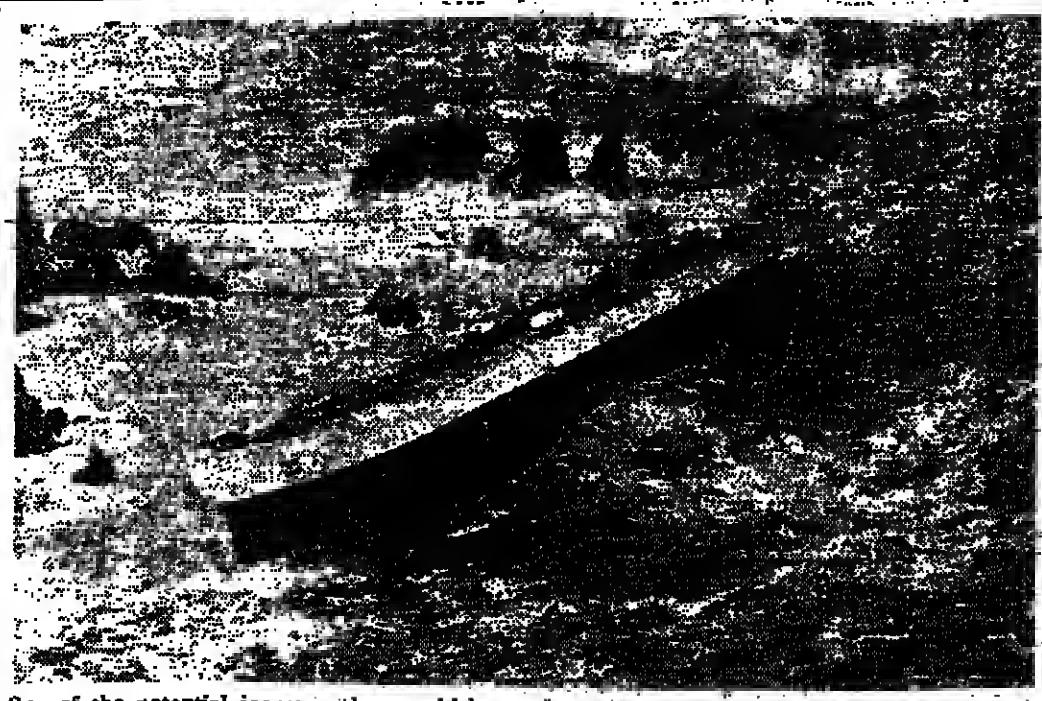
Call for lorry tax cuts

European governments should reduce taxation where it affected commercial vehicles and speed moves towards standardization of vehicle weights, Sir William Barry, president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said last night.

In a speech on the eve of the Amsterdam commercial motor show, Sir William issued a warning to the European Commission and member states that

inappropriate haste to harmonize taxation of vehicle use could, either through increases in the taxes on vehicles, or on the fuel they used, only add to inflation and reduce the competitiveness of EEC industries in world markets.

In the case of commercial vehicles, as in almost everything else, the public benefit today lies in less taxation, not more. This is the essential message governments must take on board.



One of the potential insurance losses which may have to be reckoned with this year—the 275,000-ton supertanker Olympic Bravery, still grounded on the Ushant rocks off the north-west coast of France.

£122m shipping casualties bill last year

World shipping casualties last year cost a record £122m compared with £117m in 1974, according to figures issued at Lloyd's yesterday.

These statistics covering lost or damaged vessels worth more than £500,000 in each case show that the gross tonnage of such vessels damaged or lost totalled 802,593, compared with the previous record of 681,706 tons.

The bulk of the lost shipping was heavily insured in London. Details for smaller-tonnage vessels have still to be included. Ship repair costs are rising steeply and are affecting the insurance market, as marine insurers pointed out last week.

The Lloyd's report shows that 14 of last year's casualties were registered under the Panamanian flag, 11 were Liberian, three Cypriot, and 14 were registered in Greece.

This total of 42 ships from four countries represents nearly two-thirds of the world's main shipping losses. The heaviest loss was the Greek tanker Kriti Sun, 61,054 gross tons, valued at nearly £15m, which was struck by lightning off Singapore last October.

Rolls-Royce sets up new aero division

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

In a major rationalization programme announced yesterday, Rolls-Royce is to merge the aero engine divisions at Derby and Bristol into one unit, to be called the Rolls-Royce (1971) Aero Division.

The move affects 34,000 employees in the Derby engine division based at Derby, Hucknall, Mournsall, Barnoldswick, Dunsford, Sunderland and Glasgow, and 20,000 in the Bristol engine division at Bristol and Coventry.

The 3,700 employees in the small engine division at Leamington were merged recently into the Derby division.

Under the new establishment, which takes effect from Monday, Rolls-Royce will have two divisions, the aero division, and the industrial and marine division, with 1,450 employees at Ansty.

Mr D. A. Head, managing director of the Derby engine division, is to lead the new aero division, assisted by Mr R. T. Whitfield, managing director at Bristol.

Whitehall to announce steel study team

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

Establishment of a top-level committee to prepare a detailed study on the prospects for the iron and steel industry, will be announced shortly by the National Economic Development Office.

It will be made up of two representatives each from the British Steel Corporation, the private sector of the steel industry, government, and the steel industry trade unions.

It is understood that the BSC representatives will be Mr David Westhouse, managing director-commercial, and Mr James Driscoll, managing director in charge of corporate strategy.

Mr Alec Mortimer, director of the British Independent Steel Producers' Association, will be one of the two private sector representatives, with Mr Bill Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and chairman of the TUC steel industry committee.

almost certain to be one of the two trade union members. Whitehall attaches great significance to the work of the team, given the importance of the steel industry to the rest of manufacturing. The BSC, in particular, has proved to be a serious source of bottlenecks in the past when the economy has been moving out of recession.

This has led to serious constraints on manufacturing industry and has produced a surge in steel imports. It was to prevent this happening again that the Government announced at the end of last year the provision of £70m in the form of increased public dividend capital and loans from the National Loans Fund to the BSC to support the build-up of stock of about 800,000 tonnes of semi-finished steel.

Sir Ronald McInnes, Director-General of NEDO, also attaches great importance to a similar government-financed scheme being provided for the private steel sector.

Shipbuilders' president to serve on state board

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

Further appointments to the organizing committee of British Shipbuilders, the proposed new state corporation, are expected to be announced before the end of this month.

Mr A. Ross Belch, president of the Shipbuilders and Repairers National Association, and principal spokesman for the industry against nationalization, has apparently indicated that he would be prepared to join the committee as a part-time member.

A prominent trade unionist is also to be appointed a part-time member.

He will be selected from a list of nominations put to Mr Varley by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

Members of the organizing committee, led by chairman, Sir Anthony Griffin, yesterday met 15 members of the CSEU's shipbuilding and ship repairing committee to discuss the situation and outlined to the unions the broad approach being adopted in planning the future strategy of the industry.

The recruitment of Mr Belch to the organizing committee is seen as a considerable coup both for the Government and for the full-time members of the organizing committee.

Although he has consistently been against nationalization, he has always made it equally clear that he and the industry would cooperate in ensuring that the state-owned industry was put on a sound footing from the start.

Mr Belch, managing director of the Scott Lithgow Group, is familiar with shipbuilding's problems both in this country and overseas. He also shares the view of the organizing committee's deputy chairman and chief executive, Mr J. Graham Day, that the industry must operate on the basis of a coherent national policy and that its marketing activities must be refined.

There is an urgency about naming further members of the board of the new state corporation, given the steadily deteriorating position, with no sign of any orders flowing into yards.

These and other fears were raised by the trade union team led by Mr Dao McGarvey, the boilermakers' leader, at yesterday's meeting.

West Germany's federal bank is making a \$250m (about £125m) gold-backed loan to Portugal. The credit will be made to the Portuguese national bank for six months and may be extended for three further periods of six months.

As collateral the Portuguese bank will place a corresponding amount of gold with its German counterpart. Interest charges will be in line with yields the federal bank obtains from United States Treasury Bills.

How the gold backing for the loan is being valued was not disclosed. It would remain secret to avoid disturbing the international gold market, Bonn government sources added.

The operation is similar to the \$2,000m gold-backed monetary credit the federal bank made to its Italian opposite at the Bellagio monetary meeting in September, 1974.

The credit was due to be announced tomorrow with the visit to Lisbon by Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister. However, it was decided to announce the scheme to stop speculation and rumours.

Bonn offers Portugal \$250m loan

From Peter Norman

Bonn, Feb 4

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Even though the credit is gold-backed the fact that it is being granted reflects German confidence in Portugal's economic and political future.

Bonn has also promised Portugal DM70m capital aid and the European Community has offered the country project-linked loans of more than DM500m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dressing Chequers industrial strategy in new clothes

From Mr Nigel Lawson, Conservative MP for Blaby

Sir, I am glad to see the promise you have given today to the Government's important document on "Criteria for assistance to industry"; and your industrial editor is undoubtedly right to draw special attention to the emphasis this document places on the key role of a receiver of a liquidator when a company gets into difficulties.

Also, however, he is wholly mistaken when he states that what we have here are new Government rules which represent a tightening up in the

wake of the Chrysler "rescue" operation.

The allegedly new document is, in all intents and purposes, a paper prepared by the Department of Industry last October for the much-publicized NEDY meeting at Chequers on Guy Fawkes day last year, when it was marked "confidential" and given the code-name of "NDC 05 67".

Now will see that it was referred to as such in the Government paper on industrial strategy which you published in full on page 22 of your issue of November 6, 1975. It was not, however, made available to Parliament until January 12 this year, and then only in re-

sponse to a written mine to the Secretary for Industry, which before the Christmas

In other words, representing well the Government's document in fact very essence of the trial strategy" as claimed at the November, and so published, to Mr. V. standable chagrin, first test.

Yours faithfully, NIGEL LAWSON, House of Commons, London SW1, February 3.

PO Telephones repair service: some unsatisfactory issues

From Sir William J. Lithgow

Sir, Mr. Martin of Post Office Telecommunications assures us (January 28) that his organization's standards of repair service are at least comparable to that of other public utilities. I don't know whether people in London are in the habit of sitting in the dark with neither water nor gas at the weekend, but then he has bettered the Scottish Telecommunications Board chairman's assertion that they do not repair faults out with normal working hours, by claiming that at least 60 per cent of faults reported between 9 am and 5 pm Monday to Friday, and between 8 am and 1.30 pm on Saturday are cleared the same day, frequently by extending work outside these times. I have been waiting patiently for the hustlers line in this house to be repaired for over a week. It is appreciated that a 24-hour, seven day a week service for emergency classified lines is maintained, and it is some encouragement to know that there is currently an extension to see if this can be extended to other customers. In point of fact, our ferries are regularly engaged on ambulance work, search and rescue, as well as carrying urgently required drugs, but were we to be classified as an emergency service, we would be gaining a

commercial advantage over our heavily subsidized state competitor.

We are used to paying our own way, and are perfectly prepared to pay an insurance premium to cover the cost of the weekend overtime involved in repairs which we are told, should only be necessary less than once a year. Mr. Martin writes of the convenience to customers; I am more anxious about the inconvenience caused to customers, and in particular our own, by the failure of PO equipment.

It is clear that a much greater sense of commercial awareness with the Export Credit Department is to get back on its feet. Something more than a grudging acknowledgment of customers' interests is called for from a state-controlled corporation. Were the Post Office a really commercial organization, rather than a pretend one, area managers would be free to take decisions and make a deal with a customer who needs a seven day service. In the meanwhile, we are still left to draw our own conclusions as to who or what causes the Post Office's management hang-up.

Yours faithfully, WILLIAM J. LITHGOW, Drums, Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire PA14 6YH, February 2.

almost certain to be one of the two trade union members.

Whitehall attaches great significance to the work of the team, given the importance of the steel industry to the rest of manufacturing. The BSC, in particular, has proved to be a serious source of bottlenecks in the past when the economy has been moving out of recession.

This has led to serious constraints on manufacturing industry and has produced a surge in steel imports. It was to prevent this happening again that the Government announced at the end of last year the provision of £70m in the form of increased public dividend capital and loans from the National Loans Fund to the BSC to support the build-up of stock of about 800,000 tonnes of semi-finished steel.

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Export firm ECGD ap questioned

From Mr A. L. Sir

Sir, I am writing in connection with a recent mine, review of the problems British exporters have been having in connection with ceramic equipment of more than \$150,000 in the United States market in this part of the provision of cheap financing to credit guarantee.

I am English and previous experience with the Export Credit Department is therefore telephone London with a view to completion of necessary formalities. I was told that there was no way in which a porter could be in that indeed it is ECGD financing the porter undertakes to cover the risk of non-payment of the ECGD guarantee.

I then asked what the prevailing terms for financing port credit guarantee informed that this secret. On asking for this it was explained that if I knew of the ECGD financial company were in run culies I would, then, have the United States since he was involved in this project bears no relationship to the ECGD's helpful attitude. I can only say the inclination was in order and try to buy or from some other source which recognized the low cost credit major exports of ment.

ANDREW L. GRIFFIN, Chairman, Export Credit Department, P.O. Box 110, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania 15310, USA, January 28.

Pricing policy for hydrocarbons

From Mr J. H. Goodland

Sir, The renewed call for a revenue earning tax on gas supplies by the chairman of the CEBG ("Power chief urges tax on gas to narrow differential on fuel costs", January 30) would make more sense if it were to be applied to all hydrocarbons, whether imported or indigenous.

The present position is ridiculous, and throws doubt on the accuracy of a coherent energy policy.

falling electricity sales, mounting coal stocks, further increases in coal prices, consequent increases in electricity prices, oil replaces coal for electricity generation, escalating costs of North Sea oil, minimum price demand for imported oil, year's freeze on gas prices, impending exhaustion of natural gas in southern basin, falling petrol prices.

The only basis for an energy policy is to achieve a greater independence consistent with the conservation of scarce indigenous sources.

This could be achieved by a fiscal policy in the form of a hydrocarbon depletion or conservation tax, based at first of say, 1p a therm (the present oil

import tax is 1p a gallon, 0.6p a therm) on imported oil and gas (United Kingdom North Sea oil supplies and new gas supplies being subject to ERT), increasing in its incidence as indigenous reserves are exhausted.

Coal could well be charged at a negative rate, as new reserves are being found faster than old reserves are depleted. Some of the resulting revenue could be then devoted to a greatly accelerated R & D programme on renewable sources of energy.

Yours sincerely, JOHN GOODLAND, Doyne House, Pyleigh, Taunton, Somerset, January 30.

Home loans to under privileged

From Mr Norman Griggs

Sir, Mr John Fletcher states (February 2) that building societies are failing hopelessly to fill the gap left by the restrictions on council mortgages but he does not mention what those restrictions are. In fact, an allocation of £276m has been made to local authorities in England for leading on non-commercial cases during 1976-77. This sum represents some 40,000 home loans and should itself go a long way towards meeting the gap at the bottom end of the market, where building societies are not prepared to risk their investors' funds.

Yours faithfully, NORMAN GRIGGS, Secretary-General, The Building Societies Association, 14 Park Street, London W1P 4AL, February 2.

Electric wisdom

From Mr C. L. Blackford

Sir, Accompanying my latest exhortation bill from the London Electricity Board it was comforting to find enclosed a leaflet entitled "How to Use Electricity Wisely". This useful piece of literature suggested, among other things, that I might find it cheaper to "install or use a shower instead of a bath". Perhaps the board would also advocate a return to candlelight and primus stoves, or they might like to consider organizing peat digging excursions for those of us who like the primitive life!

I would like to propose that a more constructive way of dealing with the increased costs would be for the London Electricity Board to examine its own running expenses instead of, as usual, expecting the consumer to solve the problem.

Yours faithfully, CARYL BLACKFORD, 13 Wandover Court, Chiswick Street, London W1, January 29.

Building survey stays gloomy on prospects

Britain's building industry is still in the midst of its worst recession since the war and there are no signs of improvement, according to the latest state of trade enquiry conducted in January by the National Federation of Building Trades Employers.

The survey, published yesterday, covers a cross section of 700 concerns.

GALLAHER

1975 RESULTS

The Directors of Gallaher Limited announce the following figures, subject to audit, in respect of the year ended 31st December, 1975:

	1975 £'000s	1974 £'000s
Group Sales - note 1		
Tobacco - U.K.	654,260	538,287
- Overseas	88,839	65,583
Engineering	44,084	35,001
Optical	24,059	16,264
Distribution	121,138	68,909
	<u>932,380</u>	<u>724,044</u>
Group Trading Profit before Interest		
Tobacco - U.K.	28,514	28,262
- Overseas	2,964	1,322
Engineering	5,537	5,023
Optical	4,277	2,807
Distribution	2,590	1,930
	<u>43,882</u>	<u>39,344</u>
Interest	7,440	5,876
Group Profit before Taxation	<u>36,442</u>	<u>33,468</u>
Taxation - note 2	18,562	17,085
Group Profit after Taxation	<u>17,880</u>	<u>16,383</u>
Minority Interests	202	261
	<u>17,678</u>	<u>16,122</u>
Extraordinary Items (net of taxation) - note 3	3,420	1,556
Group Profit for the year	<u>21,098</u>	<u>17,678</u>
Preference Dividends	—	219
Group Profit attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	<u>21,098</u>	<u>17,459</u>
Ordinary Dividends	8,718	6,427
Profit retained for the year	<u>12,380</u>	<u>11,032</u>
Earnings per Ordinary Share exclusive of Extraordinary Items	<u>20.8p</u>	<u>19.0p</u>
Depreciation charged in arriving at Group Trading Profit	8.951	7.239

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Alternatives for North Sea financing

most strongly in the North Sea. The 1975/76 (1975/76) is a good deal of a public debt on the basis, the 3 Thomson will be banks on its own account, a cent on the m that LSO/MO on their Oil

rel the difference marked, as experience a effect of only gain an est- 3.8 per cent for

difference and its more 50 at Nuffield's prov 21 years off OT, unsuccess- l the banks last ping for the sea time when taking a very of the N Sea

factor is the of the Clay- those of Piper. Thomson are in sion of having and relatively p field virtually happy too for s are prepared. Piper may have and above that a security when al finance for

such a prospective yield leaves room for further improvement in the shares (up 5p to 76p yesterday), particularly as Meyer is sticking to its interim forecast of an improvement in the last year-end in March in direct consequence of these acquisitions (Kaiser Venetia cost £2m and had borrowings of another £3.5m; and purchase of a 27 per cent stake in a couple of Belgian companies cost the group a further £17.5m), would run out of financial steam just as the volume and working capital requirements—acquired rising to reflect the industry's cycle. And in the third place it allows the group to do great things for the dividend, which is to be raised from 5.75p to 5.75p, more than doubling the yield to 5.2 per cent at the ex-rights price of 70p.

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the year he chose. But he was still right to suggest that an administrative system which, as well as omitting to announce important policy changes, fails to make compensating adjustments in the volume of public spending when unexpected movements in these magnitudes threaten to inflate the real as well as the money cost of government programmes is badly managed, not just unlucky.

These findings encourage confidence in the Chancellor's strategy of allowing the downward floating pound to play its part in achieving and preserving a market-clearing price to the world for British labour.

This tract signals the recruitment of a vigorous practising politician to the ranks of those who feel uncomfortable in the presently arranged political spectrum, posing as it does a stark choice between favouring capital and favouring labour.

Precisely in line with the thinking in my own Wincott lecture (IEA) it acknowledges the bankruptcy of our present political economy and calls, in the name of a revolution of individuals against remote and unresponsive institutions in both the public and the private sector, for a combination of "small" government with democracy in the workplace. I hope Mr Howell will come to acknowledge that this position can be taken from any point in the old political spectrum and not try to confine support to "new Tories".

If, of course, Mr Healey is able to persevere with his no-inflation strategy to the end of 1977 and indeed beyond, then our present political economy may succeed in smothering on some years longer than either Mr Howell or I at present expect. But if not, because for example Mr Fleming's programme cannot be sustained politically, then it will not be many years before the new politics of consumer democracy and worker democracy will come into its own.

For it will be seen to offer the only workable and democratic alternative to the crisis-ridden wreckage of a mixed economy that relies more and more on arbitrary and oppressive ordinances emanating from unauthorised cabinets, accountable to none, of the de facto industrial estates of the realm, both governmental and private, as represented at national level. The only other alternatives will be anarchy and state absolutism.

last year is a crumb of comfort in some otherwise depressing results.

Indeed, the recovery in the second half is slightly better than it looks given that £324,000 of the £400,000 pre-tax loss is due to an exceptional depreciation charge arising from the added costs AF has had to bear in completing the building of certain ships itself.

The snag is, though, that without the Government subsidy—worth £1m in the second half—fish prices some 15-20 per cent higher than the previous year are not recovering fast enough to offset the loss of the subsidy given the relentless rise in operating costs.

AF has taken reorganising operations, contracting the workforce and reducing its fleet by 24 to 120 ships, mostly on the long-distance runs to Iceland, where a reduction of the present 40 ships could mean a 40 per cent drop in Britain's catch there.

This reorganization has also extended to the food processing and transport operations and since the year-end all of its land-based operations have been closed down as well.

Further retrenchment is envisaged in the current year, but the company is well aware that it is fighting a political battle as well, so AF's progress over the next year is very much a matter of conjecture. A nominal 0.25p gross a share dividend has been paid, but the yield at 27p is hardly worth speaking about; with break-even as much as can be expected in the first half of the current year the shares are still a gamble.

Final: 1974-75 (1973-74)
Capitalization £4.75m
Sales £77.7m (£77.6m)
Pre-tax loss £2.03m (£5.61m)
Earnings per share — (11.6p)
Dividend gross 0.25p (£2.26p)
* Profit

Town & Commercial The speculative case.

Now that the receivers have been called into Charles Spreckley Industries worries about the future of its 35 per cent holding in Town & Commercial Properties are bound to be an increasing influence on T & C's share price.

Since Spreckley called for the suspension of its shares on Monday T & C's share price has already lost more than 20 per cent of its value, slipping to 12p at the close of the market yesterday. And the thought of 3.5m shares overhanging the market cannot be expected to attract many new supporters for the company.

But the case for T & C as a speculative situation is now little different from the arguments which drew dealers into British Land at 6p.

T & C does not have the quality of long-term reversionary properties which attracted the speculators to British Land. But fully diluted net assets per share of 193p, even allowing a sizeable discount for the fall in value of properties since the last valuation, gives T & C a certain gambling appeal.

Talk of an imminent capital reconstruction at T & C and the new pressing problem of finding a home for Spreckley's share stake may leave the ordinary shares at least temporarily friendless. And so the 61 per cent + convertible unsecured loan stock 1993, maturing at 24 and yielding 28 per cent could be a more interesting route into the company, although it too must remain highly speculative given T & C's continuing revenue loss.

Festive mood

A sign of confidence that there's an upturn coming, or a piece of irrelevant self-indulgence? Both are reactions in the advertising industry to the proposal to revive a British television advertising awards festival.

Tony Solomon, a director of Dorland Advertising, and Doug Kentish, managing director of Illustra Films, belong to the bullish camp, and whatever the merits of their proposal they're going about it in a pretty serious way.

Solomon, who has more than 40 years in the business behind

Roger Vielvoye

Oil consumers: the necessity of hanging together

After just over a year in existence the International Energy Agency is about to come of age. The 18 nations who represent the world's largest energy consumers outside the communist block have finally set their sights on a grand strategy for the development of alternative energy resources.

By producing a wide-ranging package that includes the establishment of a \$7 floor price for oil imports by agency member countries, a general programme to develop other sources of energy and the setting of higher standards of conservation, the members hope to lose the "confessional" tag that was placed on them by the oil producers' cartel in 1974.

But, despite all the efforts by the IEA countries to emphasise the importance of its long-term alternative energy development programme, it is the agency's carefully worked out plans for sharing out the available oil during any new curtailment of supplies that keeps the organisation together.

Like its counterpart, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), its members have wide and often conflicting interests. Opec holds together because its members realize that a veneer of unity is the only way of maintaining a hold on prices. Likewise, IEA members are prepared to sink their differences over the alternative energy programme proposals in order to preserve the emergency oil-sharing plan.

The latest example of how the "energy poor" among the IEA's members are prepared to compromise in favour of those whose energy prospects are much brighter came in Paris last week.

One of the mainstays of the IEA's long-term strategy is free access by members to each other's energy resources. Agreement on this particular topic was expected at the meetings of the agency, held in Paris last December, but at the last minute the Canadians, who have plentiful energy resources, balked.

Countries like Denmark and Japan, almost completely dependent on outside sources for their energy, insisted on free access in return for their agreement to the floor price for oil which could have helped the Canadians.

Canada has problems in this direction because the provincial government in Alberta maintains an independent energy policy restricting outside investment that is often in conflict with federal guidelines from Ottawa.

The Canadians came back to Paris last week and promised to try to persuade their provincial government to conform to the overall IEA policies. Even though no formal guarantees were available, the "energy poor" conceded the point rather than jeopardise the future of the organization.

Compromises of this sort by the less well-endowed members of the agency are nothing new. The \$7 a barrel oil price is designed to protect investment in new and expensive alternative sources of energy from sudden slump in prices. But access to a minimum price for oil is not directly in the interests of countries where the possibility of alternative energy resources overruling reliance on imported oil is only a dream of the future.

him, is chairing a joint committee of television and film interests who are to promote a festival this year through a new holding company, the London Advertising Commercial Festival.

The company will apportion the cost of the project between agencies and the film and videotape production and service companies. There has been a festival of some sort ever since commercial television went on the air in the mid-fifties, until last year, when the industry was too miserable to try.

Ernie Pearl, a founder of Pearl & Dean, already has something of the sort in the Screen Advertising World Association, which deals in both cinema and television each year between Cannes and Venice.

What Solomon and Kentish are after, however, is a London-based event, which will replace with many of the old of previous years. This will of course be to meet the objections of those in the industry who think this isn't the time or the place for such jollities.

Kentish, for instance, says that London has a position to maintain in the industry and ads are good export earners. This year they've got to get on to the shortlists will be publicly shown at the cinema of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in Piccadilly.

Window pains

It seems only yesterday that publishers of yesterday's newspapers of the likes of Bazaar and Zola began to adorn the covers with unclothed ladies of uncertain relevance to the text.

Something similar now seems to be happening in realms as



M. Etienne Davignon, chairman of the International Energy Agency: a grand strategy.

Nevertheless, Japan and Italy, which fall into this category, agreed to a \$7 floor price rather than the \$3 minimum level they would have liked. Again the desire not to rock the IEA structure is evident.

All 18 members of the IEA must approve this grand strategy and alter their internal legislation where it conflicts with the objectives of the agency. But as has been proved in the past, it is often difficult for delegates to get approval from their own Parliaments for IEA policies.

Certain parts of the programme are politically non-controversial. Everyone is aware that energy resources, particularly oil, are finite and that alternatives must be developed. Contracts for developing new ways of burning coal more efficiently have been awarded. Almost everywhere new sources of power as well as the refinement of existing energy sources, is on the agency's list for long-term development.

Conservation in all the industrial countries is another subject where there is general agreement, but where action has been limited. The efforts to area where Britain's efforts are recorded as by far the most progressive among the 18 members.

The IEA tends to make few references to its arrangements for oil-sharing these days, although the detailed plans are well refined and ready to go into operation. There is still some hesitancy over whether the agency should test its practical approach, particularly while the consumer-producer dialogue, in the form of the international conference on economic cooperation, is still in the balance.

While the good intentions of the IEA in the field of developing new ways of producing power are not disputed, the difficulty and cost of implementing these ideas are no longer underestimated by its members. With this in mind it is not difficult to see why the large consumers of oil cling so doggedly to their only means of survival in the case of a new oil emergency.

agust: as those of Sweet & Maxwell, the legal and professional division of Associated Book Publishers.

Sweet & Maxwell today publish Robert Willott's 17th paperback, *Current Accounting Law & Practice*, but seem to have been thrown into a dither by the publication last week of the Department of Trade and Industry's London & County and its amendments on the "window-dressing" of the company's accounts.

The publishers have rushed out a regular dubbing Willott's perfectly worthy compendium as a "new handbook for anyone else who may be contemplating getting into the act". Willott's tone, Sweet & Maxwell declare, could just as well have been entitled "How to window-dress your balance-sheet without breaking the law, offending the Stock Exchange or distressing the authorities of Chartered Accountants".

Whether this is the sort of thing that will distress Sir Ronald Leach, a former president of the institute and the author of the book's foreword, is not clear.

What does seem to be clear, however, is that Willott's former editor of *Accountancy* Age described by Sir Ronald as a "constructive critic"—has no time for survival within or without the law.

Tell the shareholders everything. Tell the debenture holders everything. Tell the depositors everything. Companies in insurance, banking, deposit-taking and banking, ha continues, are unjustifiably permitted to conceal from shareholders financial information at a time when every investor and debenture holder has suffered through placing too much confidence in companies thus protected.

Symptoms of withdrawal

Financial Performance and Inflation (National Economic Development Office, £1.25). This report, to be published tomorrow, is highly germane to the last point since it will map in detail the collapse of profitability which has accompanied the horrifying decline in British manufacturing industry in recent years.

Catch 76 (The Institute of Economic Affairs, £1.50). This anthology, though a less weighty successor to last year's influential *Crisis '75*, is distinguished by an outstandingly rapid contribution from John Fleming, the Oxford economist and consultant at the Bank of England.

It estimates that real wages have run a good two years ahead of productivity growth and that, with real wages 6 per cent above their market-clearing level, profits are about 25 per cent too low, a condition which is further aggravated by the interaction of inflation and the company tax system. To restore employment and to encourage expansion Fleming proposes, restraint of real wages, a percentage increase that will not discriminate

Peter Jay
Economics Editor

Cyclical Fluctuations in the United Kingdom Economy (National Economic Development Office, £1).

This useful Discussion Paper surveys (word graphs) selected aggregate and sectoral data of the United Kingdom's postwar record and concludes: "it (demand management) clearly has not succeeded in stabilising the economy completely... but the fact that fluctuations have been less in the postwar period than in earlier periods suggests that, unless there has been some reduction in the inherent tendency of the economy to fluctuate, the overall impact of the increased size of the government sector and of the government's commitment to maintaining a stable and high level of employment have been to reduce fluctuations at the aggregate level."

The pleasure this conclusion will give to Treasury forecasters and policy-makers will be somewhat diminished by NEDO's other conclusion, namely that "stop-go" fluctuations do not do any noticeable harm to growth anyway.

That first conclusion is needed. First, government policies may have been even more destabilising in the inter-war period (eg the wrong gold price in 1925, and monetary contraction, especially in the United States, 1930-31). Secondly, the destabilization which matters is not the exaggeration of the fluctuations and the consequences of accelerating inflation as the price of seeking unsuccessfully to maintain an unrealistic employment target. Thirdly, let us by all means look for the springs of growth in macro-economic del. ex machinis, but in the micro-economics of entrepreneurial opportunity and incentive.

The public is right to say that the Public Expenditure Survey Committee (PESC) system is fundamentally sound as a framework for deciding and controlling the magnitude of and priorities between government spending programmes. But it is wrong to suggest (as the accompanying press release does) that these findings "to some extent contradict the arguments of Mr Wynne Godley before the House of Commons Expenditure Committee". What is needed is PESC reinforced by the changes outlined in *The Times* leader of December 19 last.

As the centre itself makes clear, Ourselves' signing excludes debt interest and the "relative price effect". Mr Godley's results depended importantly on including these; and they were particularly important in 1974-75 which was

the year he chose. But he was still right to suggest that an administrative system which, as well as omitting to announce important policy changes, fails to make compensating adjustments in the volume of public spending when unexpected movements in these magnitudes threaten to inflate the real as well as the money cost of government programmes is badly managed, not just unlucky.

International Monetary Fund Staff Papers, November, 1975—*The 1967 Devaluation of the Pound Sterling*, by Jacques R. Artus.

This article's conclusion "differs sharply from that reached in recent investigations by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR, 1972) and the London Business School (LBS, by Ball, Burns and Miller, 1972)—it is estimated that positive benefits from the devaluation occurred relatively rapidly and were large in their magnitude".

These findings encourage confidence in the Chancellor's strategy of allowing the downward floating pound to play its part in achieving and preserving a market-clearing price to the world for British labour.

Time to Move On—An Opening to the Future for British Politics, by David Howell, MP (CPC, 50p).

This tract signals the recruitment of a vigorous practising politician to the ranks of those who feel uncomfortable in the presently arranged political spectrum, posing as it does a stark choice between favouring capital and favouring labour.

Precisely in line with the thinking in my own Wincott lecture (IEA) it acknowledges the bankruptcy of our present political economy and calls, in the name of a revolution of individuals against remote and unresponsive institutions in both the public and the private sector, for a combination of "small" government with democracy in the workplace. I hope Mr Howell will come to acknowledge that this position can be taken from any point in the old political spectrum and not try to confine support to "new Tories".

If, of course, Mr Healey is able to persevere with his no-inflation strategy to the end of 1977 and indeed beyond, then our present political economy may succeed in smothering on some years longer than either Mr Howell or I at present expect. But if not, because for example Mr Fleming's programme cannot be sustained politically, then it will not be many years before the new politics of consumer democracy and worker democracy will come into its own.

For it will be seen to offer the only workable and democratic alternative to the crisis-ridden wreckage of a mixed economy that relies more and more on arbitrary and oppressive ordinances emanating from unauthorised cabinets, accountable to none, of the de facto industrial estates of the realm, both governmental and private, as represented at national level. The only other alternatives will be anarchy and state absolutism.

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Business Diary: Banks ahoy! • Room for improvement

nce of the inter- in the North Sea prospect has come way, according to chief executive of ional Energy Bank her with Republic nk of Dallas, is the \$315m deals last night.

a Texan seconded Republic National Bank, a South African who 1 and special oper- of the IEB, were thors of this financ- which marks the e high banks to the

told Business Diary that "this Low- frightened the day- of the banks" with for participation and Revenue Tax. Both e turned out to be sory.

the Government solve the problem le to North Sea oil ll these scores, the and European banks the United Kingdom including Midland debut as a direct lan- now much happier North Sea.

good news for every- that there were ubis last year about the banks would be to come up with the r getting the North ream.

that EP is due to ayments of its large s on the Forties field : is also encouraging banks, according to. They will provide -over finance so the s can increase their



Ed Monteith yesterday.

North Sea lending without increasing their total exposure. The IEB is also delighted that it has been able to "collateralize" the risks on Claymore, added Connolly. This bit of jargon that originated in the American land-based oil fields means putting one field's oil resources up as security against lending on another field. This way both the bankers and the oil men can sleep easier in their beds at night.

Hotel guide

The English Tourist Board's second register of hotels and guest houses confirms the worst fears of Sir Mark Henig, the IEB's chairman, about the effectiveness of a purely voluntary scheme.

The latest 12-volume guide contains 7,524 entries, only

600-odd up on last year's total of 7,300 and still a mere fifth of the holiday accommodation thought to exist. Furthermore, the names who have taken the trouble to register are entirely predictable.

Before the scheme started last year Sir Mark had campaigned for the invocation of powers under the 1963 Development of Tourism Act to make registration compulsory. After long discussions with the Department of Trade, he was obliged to try voluntary hotel registration for three years.

Little hopeful of improvement next year, Sir Mark is equally sceptical about the proposals for a voluntary code to display total room prices now wending their way between the British Hotels, Restaurants, and Caterers Association and the Department of Trade. Now that John Mathven, Director-General of Fair Trading, is going to the CBI, Sir Mark could be forgiven for feeling that there is now even less chance of making the voluntary system work.

Festive mood

A sign of confidence that there's an upturn coming, or a piece of irrelevant self-indulgence? Both are reactions in the advertising industry to the proposal to revive a British television advertising awards festival.

Tony Solomon, a director of Dorland Advertising, and Doug Kentish, managing director of Illustra Films, belong to the bullish camp, and whatever the merits of their proposal they're going about it in a pretty serious way.

Solomon, who has more than 40 years in the business behind

him, is chairing a joint committee of television and film interests who are to promote a festival this year through a new holding company, the London Advertising Commercial Festival.

The company will apportion the cost of the project between agencies and the film and videotape production and service companies. There has been a festival of some sort ever since commercial television went on the air in the mid-fifties, until last year, when the industry was too miserable to try.

Ernie Pearl, a founder of Pearl & Dean, already has something of the sort in the Screen Advertising World Association, which deals in both cinema and television each year between Cannes and Venice.

What Solomon and Kentish are after, however, is a London-based event, which will replace with many of the old of previous years. This will of course be to meet the objections of those in the industry who think this isn't the time or the place for such jollities.

Kentish, for instance, says that London has a position to maintain in the industry and ads are good export earners. This year they've got to get on to the shortlists will be publicly shown at the cinema of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in Piccadilly.

Window pains

It seems only yesterday that publishers of yesterday's newspapers of the likes of Bazaar and Zola began to adorn the covers with unclothed ladies of uncertain relevance to the text.

Something similar now seems to be happening in realms as

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets
Buyers at last respond to CBI survey

Tuesday's encouraging CBI industrial survey brought a sharp response, albeit delayed, from leading equities on the London stock market yesterday.

After a couple of days of reaction, the market was ready to go ahead and the appearance of buyers was enough to produce a firm start. Apart from a lull at lunchtime prices were held for the rest of the day, even though dealers reported a slackening of interest as the session progressed.

Many felt that the gilt-edged market may have run its course and that the "loose" money there could soon find its way to the equity markets. Were this to happen the effect would be startling, though in the short run, today's North Sea findings holds the key to the market's course.

With prices closing at or about their best levels, the FT Index closed 4.9 better, at 414.4, a gain of more than a full point on the 3 pm calculation.

Unilever's final-quarter figures, due at the end of the month, could outshine the record set up in the third quarter. The credit would probably go to a strong contribution from the United Africa Company, in raw materials. Now seen by some as a more important market leader than ICI, Unilever rose 10p to 460p, the best "blue chip" showing of the day.

Prices fluctuated quite widely in the gilt-edged market, with dated stocks starting at a point above overnight levels and closed with net gains of a point or more, having twice recovered from minor reverses.

Dealers reported a good turnover, with strong two-way business. There was again a substantial amount of profit-taking, but, equally, the relatively low level of prices continued to attract steady interest.

The long-dated stocks experienced a similarly volatile business, ending at a point initially.

By the close of business in the House, prices in this sector were standing at overnight levels, but in after-hours trading they rose, to show net gains of an 1/2 point.

The possibility of a further cut in the Minimum Lending Rate on Friday and the absence of any "tap" stocks were again helping to underpin the market, dealers said.

Dealers thought there was a possibility that new "tap" stocks might be introduced on Friday, but it was being more generally assumed that the authorities might give the market still more time to digest the earlier heavy sales of new Government stocks.

British American Tobacco continued to draw strength from this week's results and added another 3p to 375p on the leaders' pitch.

ICI, where final-quarter figures are due next week, was another good story, gaining 6p to 386p, while more typical were Courtaulds, up 3p to 167p and Pisons, better by 2p to 412p.

A rights issue and profit forecast by ML Meyer, 5p firmer to 76p, brought some interest, to related issues like Phoenix Timber 5p to 66p and Parker Timber 3p to 52p. Even Intercontinental Timber managed to hold on to 115p after initial weakness following the denial of bid rumours.

The engineering sector provided a number of features with the big names like Haworth Parsons edging up 3p to 113p. News of a slightly bigger stake by Eurocanadian sent Furness Withy a penny better

to 217p and Albright & Wilson were also point firmer, at 89p after a statement on German marketing.

The banks, ahead of the results season, were a rather nervous market with National Westminster losing 6p to 272p and faring worse. Barclays 2p easier at 344p and Lloyds unchanged at 273p. Midland managed to put on a couple of pence to 315p.

In contrast, discount houses were in good form, the best being Union Discount 7p to 267p, Gillet 5p to 250p and Cater Ryder 5p to 250p.

Quicker, but firm was the picture in properties where British Land up 3p to 395p, responded to press mention. Insurances hugged close to overnight levels.

Motor industry shares continued to be favoured with Smiths Industries going ahead 5p to 151p and Lucas 3p to 214p. Elsewhere the renewed prospect of good things to come had Grifflerods firm at 78p.

There was a better day for oil shares. BP rose 2p to 583p, Shell 4p to 392p and Burmah 3p to 50p. But golds reacted to lower transatlantic advances and the metal price to lose up to 75p.

In mines, Pancontinental again featured, this time putting on £2.25 to £18.50 on uranium prospects.

The Associated Fisheries return left the shares unmoved

at 27p. Vibroplant was much the market's liking and gained 11p to 122p, while IDC put on 3p to 108p.

Others to report were: Hillards, up 3p to 93p, and Mining Supplies 3p firmer to 74p. In after-hours trading, the general tone stayed strong with most sections adding a penny or two. Vibroplant made further headway and trading news lifted Benjamin Priest. Oil shares improved, golds lost another 5p to 25p, but gilts were largely unchanged from levels at the official close.

The talk is that London Weekend Television plans an introduction or placing at the end of the year. The shares, now dealt in under £163(2) trade at about 44 pence, a 50p rise on the week. There are 15,000 voting and 2m non-voting shares. The group is strong in assets and cash-rich as well. LWT will not comment.

Equity turnover on February 3 was £50.45m (13.28p per share). The market was strong, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Barclays, Bank, British American Tobacco, ML Meyer, Shell, Burmah, UN Lever, International Timber, GKN, Hawker Siddeley, Consolidated Gold Fields, Ocean Transport, new, Granada, "A" and ENI.

Latest dividends

Company	Ord	Year	Pay	Year's	Prev
Eng & New York Fin	1.1	0.95	7/4	1.9	1.7
Hillards (10p) Int	1	0.84	19/3	3.96	2.70
IDC (20p) Fin	5.62	5.27	2/3	7.6	7.12
ICI (20p) Int	0.7	0.7	2/3	1.4	0.7
McAlpine (20p) Int	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Palahora Mining Fin	12.35	305	16/3	505	1205
P. Pratt Eng (25p) Fin	2.61	2.57	6/4	3.22	3.67
Pentland Fin	1.47	1.77	1/4	1.85	1.65
Benjamin Priest (25p) Int	0.98	0.94	2/4	3.60	3.60
Standard Higgs (25p) Int	0.93	0.87	7/4	—	2.12
Vibroplant (25p) Int	3.57	3.32	8/3	—	8.19

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere, New Business dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross, multiply the net dividend by 1.54. * Forecast, 5 cents a share.

Hillards chooses a placing as profits burgeon by 41pc

By Terry Byland

A share placing, rather than a rights issue, is the means by which Hillards, the Yorkshire supermarket group which went public just over three years ago, has chosen to raise £510,000.

The move follows advice from Samuel Montagu, the merchant banker to Hillards, that the capital base should be enlarged. It accompanies news that pre-tax profits jumped from £356,000 to £502,000 in the six months to November 8. The shares are to be placed at 86p, against 93p in the market. The main reason for a placing seems to have been that the "advice" that a rights issue would have required an appreciably lower price, and

the indication that directors and their family trusts, which hold 50 per cent of the equity, would not take up such rights. The new shares are being placed, in conjunction with Cazenove, with institutional investors.

The placed shares will not rank for the interim dividend of 15p declared but they will take the proposed final of 4.50p, on the capital increased by the placing. This would lift the total for the year to May 1 this year to 9.39p, an increase of 49 per cent.

Turnover for the half year rose from £5.5m to £5.7m, and the chairman has previously forecast sales of about £50m for the full year. In 1974-75, profits of £641,000 before tax

were reported on sales of £35.6m. Since the group went public, profits before tax have risen by about 150 per cent.

The acquisition and opening of new stores has played a key role in Hillards' expansion. In December last, the group brought four of the former Brierley supermarkets stores from the Official Receiver, and shareholders were told at the annual meeting of the opening of six newly built stores.

Since then, the chairman reports, the group has opened its first freezer centre at Pontefract and a non-food store at Ossett, near Wakefield. This pushed up borrowings and brought the bankers' suggestion for the present share placing.

A sound advance from F Pratt and orders are still healthy

F. Pratt Engineering Corporation did well in the second half of the year, and went on to a new peak in the year to October 31. The order book has shortened but it remains "reasonably healthy" and the group is poised, says the board, to benefit from any major economic recovery in the present year.

Pre-tax profits advanced 27 per cent to £13.5m on a turnover of 30 per cent better at £14.8m. The group's profits moved from £637,000 to £718,000, and the year's payout rises from 5.48p gross to 6.03p. At the onset of the year, order books were substantially ahead of the same period (some 18 per cent) and the group's divisions comprise among other things hydraulics, forging, engineering, and construction.

Ben Priest down 22pc but payout is raised

Having passed the £1m mark for the first time last year, Benjamin Priest (Holdings) (fasteners, mechanical handling and storage equipment), the group's profits fell 22.3 per cent to £44,000 in the six months to September 26, though sales rose from £1.65m to £1.7m. The dividend rises from 1.40p to 1.50p gross. The decision reflects the board's unchanged confidence in the group's long-term prospects.

Union Discount

Mr A. J. O. Ritchie, chairman of Union Discount, said in his statement in the 1975 annual report: "The changes in the Minimum Lending Rate occurred during the year, reflecting once again the continuing unsettled and unstable conditions in which the discount market operated throughout 1975. In these circumstances the company has once again had a successful year's trading."

"Many problems still confront the United Kingdom economy in 1976, but with the possibility of some further fall in interest rates, it is expected that the company's trading during the early months of the year, the company has a portfolio of assets whose composition and life is such that the uncertainties lying ahead can be faced without undue risk."

Comfort in 'Johnnies'

Pre-tax profits at Johannes Consolidated Investments fell a mere seven per cent to £18.8m in the six months to the end of December. Net profit after tax, however, doubled trading profits almost offset the effects of the decline in investment income—mainly gold and platinum—from £15m to £11.8m and an increase in exploration interest and depreciation.

The company reports that the Rand evaluation added £6.23m to its foreign loans. Profits at the attributable level fell 20 per cent to £13.1m. The

company says the full year decision before write-offs and currency loss provisions should not be as pronounced as in the first six months.

Vibroplant again rises slightly

The slackening in growth at plant-hire group Vibroplant in last year's second-half year (to 1 per cent) gave way to something a bit better in the six months to September 30.

After making a record £17.2m for the year to March 31 last, pre-tax profits for the latest half were 7 per cent better at £913,000. Turnover rose from £2.69m to £2.82m. Net profit was £438,000, against £411,000 in the interim dividend goes up from 5.25p gross to 5.5p.

Lean times in building and construction continued, making turnover gains difficult. Cost increases continued to bite into margins. The group operates mainly in Scotland and the North of England. It concentrates chiefly on smaller equipment like rollers and compressors, and has an established profit record since coming to the market in April 1973, and indeed for 10 years before that.

Mining Supplies

gives 2-for-1

A bumper year is on the way for Mining Supplies. On sales up from £3.8m to £5.9m, pre-tax profits jumped 92 per cent to £685,000 in the six months to October 25. There is again no interim dividend, but shareholders are to receive a two-for-one scrip issue. There has been need to take up the 5-year loan mentioned in the last annual report, although the facility is still available.

North British Steel

North British Steel, with record profits under its belt for the year to September 27, is to increase borrowing powers. In his review, Mr G. M. Menzies, chairman, says the limit will be raised from £1.3m to £4.6m, twice the size of the company's share capital and reserves. He notes that demand for heavier and lighter castings is low. He adds that first quarter results are "reasonable", but he makes no forecast.

Small gain at Sanyo

A modest improvement is reported by Sanyo Electric for the year to November 30. Net earnings rose a bit from £750,000 to £780,000 yen, but sales fell from 359,000 yen to 350,000. Mr Kaoru Ise, president, said

Chairman wants to buy Warwick

Two-and-a-half years after returning to the market with a placing of 45p a share, Warwick Engineering Investments, a company owned by its chairman, Mr Norman Gidney, T. Gidney and his wife. The terms are 26p cash, or 26p nominal of 10 per cent unsecured stock, 1985/86 of £11 for each Warwick ordinary share.

There are two conditions. First, that the bid is not referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission; second, that acceptances of 0.5 less than 90 per cent of Warwick's equity are received, any response over 50 per cent which Gidney may decide. Minor shareholders have been advised by Kaysers Ullmann to accept the cash alternative.

The company's directors will accept the offer for 4.4 million shares (7.47 per cent) and their control. Along with it offer document come Warwick interim results for the six months to September 30. Pre-tax profits were almost halved to £205,000 and turnover was down from £8.9m to £8.2m. The net profit fell from £209,000 to £95,000 and there is no payment against 3.15p gross.

Stock Exchange: an updated code

The Stock Exchange is sending out 15,000 copies of an updated dealing code, first issued 10 years ago. It will go to the financial institutions as well as to members and their clerks.

For about a year two senior members have acted as arbiters in any dealing problem. The aim was to avoid reference to the SE Council, now used only as a last resort.

The main changes in the code concern the rules relating to country, currency and the procedure for "put-throughs"—the creation of matching business—and the registration of jobs. They are now required to specify the securities in which they intend to trade. The idea of this is to provide at least two jobbers for every quoted share.

Overseas

Coal boosts earnings of Continental Oil

New York, Feb. 3.—Continental Oil had record earnings last year. On revenues up from \$7.34m to \$7.57m, earnings rose from \$307.2m to \$339.3m (15.65c). Earnings a share went up from \$6.06 to \$6.50.

In the fourth quarter, net profits rose from \$45.8m to \$78m, on revenues up from \$2,030m to \$2,140m. Earnings share expanded from 90c to \$1.63. The board attributes the year's record earnings primarily to coal operations which contributed \$142m to income (\$43.8m). This improvement in coal earnings reflected better margins, higher gains on price recovery, and liquidation of coal production operations at the end of the third quarter, when two-million ton increase in output. Earnings from worldwide petroleum operations rose from \$266m to \$176.8m. Reuter.

PHILLIPS PETROLEUM

Year's earnings per share, \$4.3 (\$5.66). Net income, \$342.6 (\$429.7m). Revenues, \$5,300 (\$5,551m). (1974 total includes \$9.3m from sale of town of plant in Puerto Rico.)—Reuter

DORMAN SMITH GROUP

Two subsidiaries, Dorman Smith Contractors and Dorman Smith Britmar, will trade under the second name from April 1.

Montagu leaves Allied Invs

Samuel Montagu has resigned as merchant banker to Allied Investments, the private health group, and placed its 1.49m shares with institutions. Mr R. M. Danczik, a Montagu director, has also resigned from the Allied board.

Last night Mr Michael Rosenberg, an Allied director, said the company's original relationship with its merchant bankers had changed first with Montagu becoming wholly owned by the Midland Bank and secondly with the considerable personnel changes that took place at the bank.

Mr Rosenberg, in fact, originally joined Allied as a senior executive director in 1973 while

an executive director of Montagu. In mid-1974 he was signed from Montagu to become a full-time Allied executive.

Last November, Montagu held 11.2 per cent of the company's equity, while Commercial Union and the Orion Bank held 17.3 per cent of the equity. Mr Rosenberg said Montagu had decided to sell its holding because it appeared that the bank's policy was to sell large stakes in companies with larger companies.

Last December, Allied reported a 70 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £170,000, not including the half-year to the end of October.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION
of
Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica-ENEL
(Italian National Electric Energy Agency)
7 1/2 Per Cent, 15-Year Guaranteed Bonds of 1970
Due March 1, 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, on behalf of Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica-ENEL, that on March 1, 1976, \$5,000,000 principal amount of its 7 1/2 Per Cent, 15-Year Guaranteed Bonds of 1970 will be redeemed out of monies to be paid by it to Dillon, Read & Co., as Principal Paying Agent, pursuant to the mandatory, annual redemption requirement of said Bonds and to the related Authenticating Agency Agreement and Paying Agency Agreement, each dated as of March 1, 1970. The Chase Manhattan Bank (National Association), as Authenticating Agent, has selected, by lot, for such redemption the Bonds bearing the following serial numbers:

4 1954	1957	5622	7248	8065	10819	12644	14651	16818	19444	22141	25072	28254	31705	35328	39145	43080	47155	51380	55765	60310	65025	69910	74965	80190	85595	91180	96945	102890	108915	115020	121205	127470	133825	140270	146805	153430	160155	166980	173905	180930	188065	195310	202665	210130	217705	225390	233195	241120	249165	257330	265615	274020	282545	291190	299955	308840	317845	326970	336215	345580	355065	364670	374395	384240	394205	404290	414495	424820	435265	445830	456515	467320	478245	489290	500455	511740	523145	534670	546315	558080	569965	581970	594095	606340	618705	631190	643795	656520	669365	682330	695415	708620	721955	735420	748915	762540	776295	790170	804165	818280	832515	846870	861345	875940	890655	905490	920445	935520	950715	966030	981465	997020	1012695	1029490	1046405	1063440	1080595	1097870	1115265	1132780	1150415	1168170	1186045	1204040	1222155	1240390	1258745	1277220	1295815	1314530	1333365	1352320	1371395	1390590	1409905	1429340	1448895	1468570	1488365	1508280	1528315	1548470	1568745	1589140	1609655	1630290	1651045	1671920	1692915	1714030	1735265	1756620	1778095	1799690	1821405	1843240	1865195	1887270	1909465	1931780	1954215	1976770	1999445	2022240	2045155	2068190	2091345	2114620	2138015	2161530	2185165	2208920	2232795	2256790	2280905	2305140	2329495	2353970	2378565	2403280	2428115	2453070	2478145	2503340	2528655	2554090	2579645	2605320	2631115	2657030	2683065	2709220	2735495	2761890	2788405	2815040	2841795	2868670	2895665	2922780	2949915	2977170	3004545	3032040	3059655	3087390	3115245	3143220	3171315	3199530	3227865	3256320	3284895	3313590	3342405	3371340	3400395	3429570	3458865	3488280	3517815	3547470	3577245	3607140	3637155	3667290	3697545	3727920	3758415	3789030	3819765	3850620	3881595	3912690	3943905	3975240	4006695	4038270	4069965	4101780	4133715	4165770	4197945	4230240	4262655	4295190	4327845	4360620	4393515	4426530	4459665	4492920	4526295	4559790	4593405	4627140	4661005	4694990	4729095	4763320	4797665	4832130	4866715	4901420	4936245	4971190	5006255	5041440	5076745	5112170	5147715	5183380	5219165	5255070	5291095	5327240	5363505	5400000
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Bonds so selected for redemption will become due and payable in United States dollars on March 1, 1976, at the office of Dillon, Read & Co., 48 Wall Street, New York, New York 10005, at one hundred per cent (100%) of the principal amount thereof with interest accrued thereon to the redemption date. Bonds should be presented for redemption together with all appurtenant coupons maturing subsequent to the redemption date. If monies for the redemption of all the Bonds to be redeemed are available at the office of Dillon, Read & Co. on the redemption date, interest thereon will cease to accrue from and after such date.

At the option of the respective holders of bearer Bonds selected for redemption, the principal amount thereof and interest thereon may be collected upon presentation at the offices of the following Co-Paying Agents: in Luxembourg-Ville, Grand Duché de Luxembourg at the principal office of Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas pour le Grand Duché de Luxembourg S.A., or in Milan, Italy at the principal office of Banca Commerciale Italiana S.p.A., or in London, United Kingdom at the principal office of S.G. Warburg & Co. Limited, or in Frankfurt a/M, Federal Republic of Germany at the principal office of Deutsche Bank A.G. Additionally, insurance companies doing business in the Republic of Italy may present for redemption Bonds registered as to principal, which they own, at the principal branch of the Co-Paying Agent in Milan, Italy.

DILLON, READ & CO.
Principal Paying Agent

Dated: January 29, 1976

VIBROPLANT HOLDINGS LIMITED
Business: Plant Hire Specialists
INTERIM STATEMENT
HALF YEAR TO 30th SEPTEMBER

	1975	1974
Group Turnover	2,825,959	2,692,637
Unaudited Profit before Taxation	913,587	856,073
Corporation Tax 52%	475,066	445,158
Group Profit after Tax	438,521	410,915
Cost of Dividend (after waivers) Net	107,250	105,525

The Directors have declared an Interim Dividend of 3.575p per share which together with the Associated Tax Credit is equivalent to 5.5p per share (1974 5.25p per share). The Dividend is payable to 1976 shareholders on the Register at the 20th February 1976 and will be paid on the 8th March 1976.

Registered Office - Prospect Road, Starbeck, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

Mr. J. K. O'Donnell has resigned from the Board of Addo International.

Mr. J. Fawcett joins the board of Arthur Lee and Sons.

Mr. Frank Monkman is to be deputy chairman of Media Paying Services. Mr. Alan James joins the board.

Mr. Henry Crefield has been appointed manufacturing director of Refill Motors.

Mr. Norman Roberts is now a director of Tullitt & Riley (Foreign Exchange).

Mr. Herbert Wadsworth, director and joint general manager of Heat of England Building Society, has been appointed a member of the National House Building Council.

Mr. R. Goldsmith becomes managing director of Wingard.

Mr. G. W. Booth has been appointed finance director of Energy Services and Electronics.

Mr. E. Dyer has joined the board of Westwick Properties.

Mr. J. Clarke has been made a director of United Glass.

Mr. Peter Ruck has been appointed to the board of Industrial Communications.

Mr. Leslie Burrows has become director of marketing for Bristol Myers recently formed heavy appliances division.

Mrs. Catherine Harrison has become a divisional director of Thomas Black.

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Jan 11 1976

AL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

UK

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Briefly

BURCO DEAN
In his annual statement, Lord Hewlett, the chairman, reports that conditions are difficult and that results for the first half of 1976 may be "disappointing", but longer-term the board is "strongly confident" about the future.

RAKERS HOUSEHOLD

Mr Baker, chairman of Rakers Household Stores (Leeds), tells shareholders in his annual report that the first three months' period to Christmas has been "very encouraging" and shows a satisfactory increase in turnover and profitability.

DEANSON (HOLDINGS)

Mr Dennis Dean, chairman, reports in his annual statement that there has been an improvement in demand since the date of the last accounts. During the coming months the company is planning to spend "in the region of £200,000" on new equipment.

STONEWARE

Trading loss for half-year to Aug 31, £26,000 (profit, £20,500). But pre-tax profit for period of £25,000 (£75,000). Board expect second half will show some improvement.

HEPMEAD

Acceptance of offer by Hepmead for Alderbrook Group amount to 90 per cent.

NIGHTINGALE & CO LIMITED

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